

Treasury and CBI kept waiting for 3pc drop

Banks rebuff Lawson's call for rates cut

By Peter Rodgers,
City Editor

The main clearing banks yesterday rebuffed the Chancellor's attempt to get base lending rates down 0.5 per cent to 12 per cent. They caused confusion in the City, concern at the CBI and surprise in Whitehall.

The pound continued its rise against a rapidly weakening dollar on the foreign exchange. It closed just over half a cent higher at \$1.3887 after passing \$1.39 during the day.

The stand-off over base rates came despite Bank of England moves to underpin its decision on Thursday to cut its own dealing rates in the City's money markets by a half per cent.

The Bank marginally shaved some of its rates again as a technicality to consolidate at a level consistent with 12 per cent base rates. The Bank of England does not want any greater reduction than half per cent but was left yesterday afternoon waiting for even that.

The clearing banks' rebuff drew criticism from the Confederation of British Industry, which said: "We are concerned that base rate has not gone down today following the nudges given by the Bank of England. We are still looking

THE government yesterday revealed better than expected inflation figures showing only a 0.2 per cent price rise in June, the smallest this year, leaving the annual inflation rate unchanged at 7 per cent. One of the main reasons for the Chancellor's hard line on interest rates — until this week — was to keep the pound strong to help inflation fall later in the year.

Building societies confirmed a pick-up in receipts in the first week of July to over £200 million in line with the £200-million-a-month target. It is the first glimmering of hope for a cut in mortgage rates which would also help to reduce inflation, as would this weekend's move to lower petrol prices.

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for a two-point cut and we hope it will be at least a half per cent on Monday."

NatWest and Barclays, which invariably make the first moves said only that they were keeping their base rates under review. Neither would explain their decision to ignore the Government's clear indication that it wanted a change.

One senior banker said that in spite of the Bank of England's reduction very short term interest rates in the

wider banking markets remained stubbornly high so that his bank would lose money if it reduced base rate immediately. "There was no movement from us for very good commercial reasons," he added.

The Bank of England was also blamed for leaving a small shortage of funds in the banking system. Another banker said: "We are awaiting confirmation of easier trends in the market this week."

These technical explanations are unlikely to ease the irritation in Whitehall, where the Treasury is unable to express its views publicly because the clearing banks are theoretically free to determine their own rates.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is thought to have ordered the downward shove because of the rapid rise this week in the value of the pound which has reinforced the plans of industry not to let sterling get overvalued.

The employers' organisation returned to the attack last night by pointing out that at the present exchange rate against the German mark Britain is 42 per cent less competitive than in 1975.

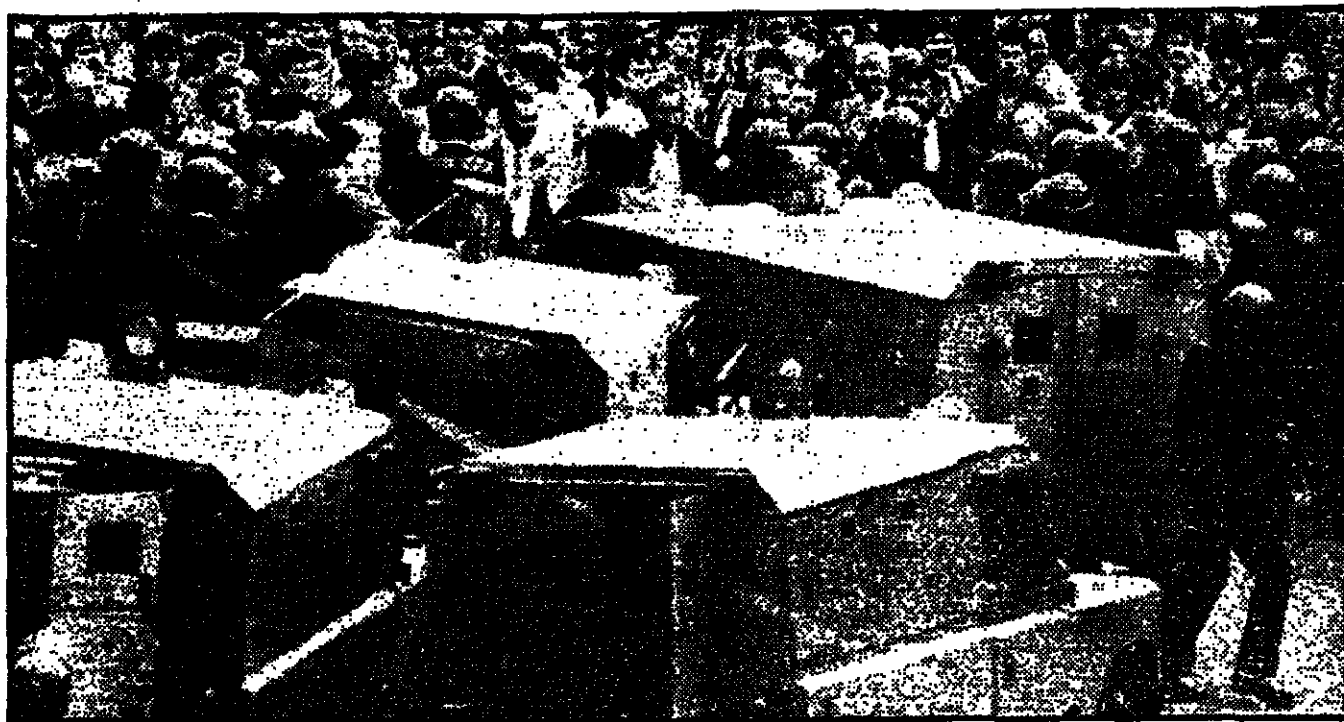
The pound lost again, the mark closing 3.5 pence down at DM4.0044 but this is still a high level. A CBI spokesman said that the recent rapid rise of sterling had made it 14 per cent more valuable against the mark, "which is the currency our members are most worried about."

Even though the pound is up 31 per cent against the dollar since its low point this year, CBI members are less concerned about their competitiveness in the American market.

The CBI said it was also concerned about the volatility of exchange rates which made planning difficult. It called for Britain to become an operational member of the European Monetary System after first cutting interest rates to get sterling down to an acceptable rate against the mark.

The dollar was weak because of evidence of a sluggish American economy contained in US retail sales figures. Nevertheless, in spite of falls against European currencies sterling ended the day unchanged on its Bank of England index at 83.4 per cent of its 1975 value.

The clearing banks' tardiness unsettled the stock market, which had expected a base rate cut. The FT 30 share index was down 8.4 at 826.



THE VIEW FROM OBINS STREET: Police vehicles form a wall to stop the Orangemen

RCs saved from beer and bigotry

From Paul Johnson
in Portadown

A TINY part of Northern Ireland stepped back 16 years yesterday during the triumphal Orange parades celebrating King Billy's victory of 1890.

Obins Street in Portadown, a mile-long nationalist strip in the middle of Loyalist territory, was protected by a tight ring of soldiers and riot police.

Roman Catholic children chanted to the troops, in support of their rifles and climbed on to the green personnel carriers.

The mothers brought out mugs of tea and plates of sandwiches to make it just

like 1969, when the army came into Northern Ireland to protect the Roman Catholics from Loyalist mobs.

At either end of Obins Street Orangemen, fuelled by bigotry and beer, fought to get past the police and army barricades to exercise what they called their civil rights of being able to march where and when they like in Northern Ireland.

The perversion of Ulster politics was there for all to see. Those waving Union flags and shouting about law and order and loyalty were throwing anything they could get their hands on at the police and soldiers.

At one point in the afternoon, the effect of drink just

beginning to sink in, the several hundred-strong crowd fronted by a pipe and drum band managed a 10-minute halt of stones, bricks and bottles.

There was fighting with the police and with fists shaking in the air, they chanted "SS, RUC". A full followed, the band struck up God Save the Queen, and the fighting started up again.

There was disorder on the Orange side of the barricades. Mr James Walls, a Democratic Unionist member of the Northern Ireland Assembly who believes in hanging and Northern Ireland having its own independent nuclear deterrent, said 15,000 Orangemen could be

summoned within 10 minutes. His more immediate problem was to find a megaphone.

Attempts to talk to Orange leaders about the demonstration and their anger at being prevented from marching through Obins Street, where their forefathers have walked for more than a century, proved difficult.

Outside Corcoran Orange Hall reporters who approached an old Orangeman with badges of rank on his sash were threatened with a good kicking.

One outburst of particularly furious missile-throwing brought the firing of plastic bullets from the police. Then

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Sterling's strength knocks 6p off petrol

By John Hooper,
Energy Correspondent

BP yesterday led its rivals into the biggest single cut in the price of petrol since the war. The British multinational slashed 6p off the price of a gallon of four star taking it back below the £2 mark. Within hours, Shell and Esso had followed suit.

From midnight last night the standard price was £1.98.7p. But in those areas where stations have been offering cut-price petrol, there will be little or no difference because the companies are withdrawing the subsidies which have enabled their retailers to sell at below the so-called "scheduled price."

Last night's cut was forced on the oil companies by a combination of falling dollar oil prices and the rise in the pound. Oil is priced in dollars, so that if sterling is gaining

the cost of oil goes down for British importers. The independent chains have been backing up petrol on the Rotterdam spot market at bargain prices and selling it at below the level set by the multinationals, thereby forcing them to cut.

By the time BP made its move yesterday it was providing subsidies for 800 of its 2,600 outlets. A number of MPs have recently joined the motorists' organisations in calling for a cut.

Petrol prices have been on a switchback since the end of last year. They first went through the £2 barrier as a result of the 4p-per-gallon budget increase in March. They fell to 198.4p on March 30, but in a highly controversial move — they were put up again to 204.6p two weeks later.

Laker victims to be paid \$48m

By David Simpson,
Business Correspondent

The 14,000 ticket-holders stranded when Laker Airways went bankrupt three years ago will be fully compensated within the next few weeks.

The company liquidator agreed a \$48 million settlement yesterday with 11 defendants whom he had sued for \$1 billion, including British Airways.

The agreement will not free the way for the delayed privatisation of British Airways as Sir Freddie Laker is refusing to accept an individual compensation offer of \$8 million from the airlines.

The companies were being sued in the United States on the grounds that they allegedly conspired to drive Laker Air out of business. The deal was agreed in Washington after the liquidator, Mr Christopher Morris, met lawyers from the airlines who also included British Caledonian, Pan Am and Lufthansa as well as the plane makers McDonnell Douglas and the McDonnell Douglas Finance Corporation.



Sir Freddie... waiting to see settlement

Sir Freddie, speaking in Miami, would say only: "I could not possibly make any comment until I see all the papers and the facts. It's not something you can shoot from the hip on."

BA is still facing other claims in US courts, including one for \$85 million by Mr Bob Beckman, the Washington lawyer who has represented the liquidator in his claims against

BA and the other international airlines. Mr Beckman has also rejected an \$8 million settlement.

A further claim is a \$327 million suit for damages brought by Lorbho, the international trading group, which formed two unsuccessful travel companies with Sir Freddie after the Skytrain group went bankrupt. BA said yesterday that it had no intention of paying Lorbho a penny.

A BA spokesman said that the main obstacle to the privatisation of the group has now been removed. It is unlikely, however, that the Government can proceed with its planned \$1 billion sale while Sir Freddie's anti-trust case remains outstanding.

The privatisation has already been postponed from this February and is not expected to take place until next spring at the earliest.

Mr Colin Marshall, the chief executive of BA, said last night: "Settlement bears an admission of guilt. BA and the other defendants have denied

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Midlands win bid for Olympics

By David Hearst

BIRMINGHAM was last night chosen as the city to make Britain's bid to host the Olympic Games in 1992. The vote of the National Olympic Committee of the British Olympic Association was overwhelming, with 25 votes cast for the city, five for Manchester, and only two for London.

Mr Charles Palmer, chairman of the BOA, said the key factor in their decision was their wish to keep as many of the events as possible on one site, and they were not convinced that the M25 would minimise the problems of crossing London.

Mr Palmer said: "Birmingham was clearly the best of the bids. Then we had to decide if they were worthy to be put forward to the International Olympic Committee selection in October 1986, and it was decided unanimously that they should go forward."

Mr Denis Howell, the former Labour minister of sport who became involved in Birmingham's bid four weeks ago, said he was delighted by the decision and confident the city could be chosen to host the games.

He said that Birmingham already had nine halls of residence and the National Exhibition Centre, representing £25 million of sporting facilities. If successful, the bid would be worth £1 billion after the Olympic village and superdome stadium for up to 100,000 spectators were built.

It is understood that Birmingham City Council has already agreed to provide £500,000 to allow the winning consortium to mount the challenge, which has to be made by March next year.

Mr Howell said: "We are in touch with the international market and we are absolutely sure that we shall not ask for one penny of public money." He said their intention was to make a profit of £350 million on the games.

Brisbane, Barcelona and Paris are leaders in the race to host the games.

John Rodda, page 13

Joseph blocks new-look deal to give teachers 7.5pc package

By Andrew Moneur,
Education Staff

Leaders of the employers, convinced that they have devised a pay package which can crack the five-month teachers' dispute, ran into a Government stone wall yesterday — and cold water from the unions.

The informal proposals came in three stages which must hang together or fall apart at Tuesday's resumed talks in the Burnham negotiating committee.

The Labour-led local authority employers have already overstretched their budgets to frame the offer and can look for no immediate help from Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, who again refused more money to fund an increased 1985 wage deal.

The deal depends on the unions agreeing a new teaching contract and a package of salary structure reforms tied to the settlement. It will then have to be sold to Sir

Keith in return for the promise of more cash to come next year.

Mr Fred Jarvis, the union leader on Burnham described the figures as utterly and deliberately misleading after they had been released by the enthusiastic employers.

Mr Jarvis, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, criticised the acting leader of the management side, Mr John Pearman, for juggling with figures while the conditions have still to be officially tabled.

"Even when they are dressed up in the way Mr Pearman has attempted, the increases the employers are canvassing fall far short of the amount necessary to make a serious start on the restoration of the erosion of teachers' pay levels," he said after a meeting of the NUT executive.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, the deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women

Teachers, said: "As soon as you start involving Sir Keith you make settlement virtually impossible. The figures must be higher and the conditions less stringent."

The head teachers are also worried about the attempt by the employers to tilt the settlement towards lower paid

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "There is a distinct danger that the heads will be sold down the river."

The local authority leaders remained undismayed. A group of Labour negotiators met Sir Keith yesterday.

Mr Pearman said later: "What we clearly did not get from him was any easing of his negative attitude on money this year. I am not optimistic about that but I have not given up hope."

The ingenious three-part package amounts to a 7.5 per cent increase over the year —

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tactics switch

MR Ken Livingstone, the GLC leader, is trying to persuade London Labour Party to stop trying to prevent the council's abolition. He wants the party to avoid blame for the chaos he believes will follow. Back page.

Big noises

LIVE Aid, the world's biggest pop concert, links Wembley stadium and Philadelphia with a potential television audience of one billion people today in the hope of raising £10 million for famine relief. Page 2. Leader comment, page 2.

The weather

SUNNY periods, warm. Details, back page.

Britoil disappoints

BRITOL, in which the Government is expected to sell its remaining stake this month, announced a disappointing £0.4 million after-tax profit for the first half of the year. Page 18.

Plomley funeral

MORE than 1,000 people honoured Roy Plomley, presenter of Desert Island Discs, at a memorial service in London yesterday which included the playing of the zither. Page 3.

Ex-PC cleared

A FORMER policeman who served four years in goal for murder because police evidence was withheld from his counsel was cleared yesterday. Page 2.

Home truth

A WIFE had no financial interest in her home because she had made no contribution towards paying for it, the Appeal Court ruled yesterday. Page 4.

Deaths blame

ENGLISH society was responsible for the 38 deaths in the riot at the European Cup final in Brussels, because it tolerates violence, the Belgian Interior Minister said yesterday. Page 7.

Dignified exit

THE Cypriot couple who have spent 135 days in a London church, seeking sanctuary from a deportation order, said yesterday that they would leave Britain "with dignity" on Monday. Page 4.

Today

On target

In March 1943 a Mosquito dropped a stick of target indicators above the Krupp factory in Essen. Within 40 minutes more than 600 acres of the plant had been laid waste, and Bomber Command's strike efficiency went up from 5 to 60 per cent.

Third day

Matthew Engel at the Trent Bridge Test. Page 13.

Waiting for Godard

Colin McCabe celebrates next week's television season devoted to the works of the French filmmaker. Page 10.

Monday

FOSTER HOME

Who can cope with wayward teenagers? Polly Toynbee talks to a woman who does.

GLOBAL NIGHTMARE

Do they know it's Wembley? Terry Coleman reports from the Live Aid concert.

BLACK SECTIONS

Has Labour ever really shown itself willing to represent the needs and demands of black people in this society? Stuart Hall argues the case for structural change.

Tuesday

DISAPPEARING ACT

The new man? The anti-sexist male of the late 1970s? Where is he now? Guardian Women investigates.

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You can't switch off the African famine.

You may be able to turn off the TV coverage of the Live Aid concert this weekend, but you certainly can't switch off the African famine.

The response to date has been overwhelming, but more long-term aid of the kind that experienced Save the Children field workers are giving is needed to prevent further tragedy.

Save the Children are now beginning to turn the tide of suffering, so don't switch off the African famine.

You could be switching off the life of a child.

Save the Children African Campaign.

I enclose my donation of £..... (s.a.e. for receipt)

Or debit my
Access/Bardycard No.

Signature

Or send through National Giro No. 5173000.

Or phone ansaphone 01-701 0894.

Please also send me details of how to make a covenant ☐ (Tick)

Name

Address

Send to: The Save the Children Fund, Dept. 5131115,
17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD.

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Legal forces group for London invasion

By Malcolm Dean

The biggest American invasion force since the second world war began arriving in London yesterday for the American Bar Association's annual convention, which starts on Monday.

About 10,000 lawyers with 10,000 spouses, children, other relatives and friends will have arrived by then, filling some 120 hotels and renting 4,000 cars for the five-day conference.

It will be London's biggest convention, earning an estimated £30 million for the tourism industry. A business session already held in Washington was opened by President Reagan, who welcomed 8,000

delegates to "the last tax-deductible convention of the ABA."

He proposes to end the lawyers' right to deduct professional conference expenses from tax demands, but ABA officials did not look too concerned by this threat yesterday. One official said that the proposals had to get through Congress "where some 50 per cent of the members are lawyers and the other 50 per cent will be hearing from the powerful hotel and restaurant lobbies."

This is the fourth "off-shore" ABA convention to be held in London. The previous three were in 1924, 1957 and 1971 and the only other ever-

seas venue has been Australia. Compared with the United Kingdom, the United States has three times as many lawyers per head of population. There are about 600,000 with the ABA representing 310,000 of them. Some do not join because there are state and local bar associations below the ABA, which claims to be the world's biggest voluntary professional association.

It has a staff of 800, a budget of \$50 million a year. It leaves fee negotiations to local and state bar associations, concentrating instead on professional issues.

A recent survey by the ABA journal suggested that members' average annual salary was \$97,000, although an offi-

cial here suggested that this might have been exaggerated "to impress our advertisers."

Some big firms have up to 80 partners, each earning more than \$200,000 a year.

The UK establishment has been going all out to welcome the Americans. There are to be garden parties on three successive nights in each of the four Inns of Court and Mr John C. Shepherd, the ABA's president, has been made an honorary master of the bench of the Middle Temple and honorary member of the Law Society — the first time anyone is believed to have picked up both distinctions.

Mr. Shepherd made much yesterday of the links between UK and the US, noting that

five of the people who signed the Declaration of Independence were benchers of the Middle Temple.

Each delegate will have the choice of 30 plenary sessions and 130 seminars. On arrival they will receive a bundle of papers weighing 6lb and could, if they made the complete round, pick up papers weighing 25lb. For the indefatigable there are another two days of seminars, which will run concurrently in Edinburgh and Dublin at the end of the week.

The conference will open in the Palace of Westminster, where there are 1,800 places for the 10,000 delegates. Mrs Thatcher will address about 5,000 in the Albert Hall on Monday afternoon.

Thames TV chief quits in row over Dallas

By Peter Fiddick

MR BRYAN Cowgill yesterday resigned as managing director of Thames Television in the six-month row over Dallas, the American soap opera he snatched from the BBC.

Mr Cowgill blamed the Independent Broadcasting Authority for his decision to quit the £85,000-a-year job, claiming that the IBA had threatened that the company's franchise would not be renewed unless the series was given back to the BBC.

He attacked the "cosy and dangerous accommodation" between the BBC and ITV behind the affair, and singled out the chairman and director-general of the IBA as "the first source of pressure" on Thames.

"The whole affair of Dallas is a worrying indication that decisions made by myself and my colleagues are being second-guessed by the hierarchies of the IBA and the BBC," he said.

Announcing Mr Cowgill's departure, "by mutual agreement," Mr Hugh Dundas, chairman of Thames, praised his eight-year contribution to the company, and said: "He will be greatly missed, personally and professionally."

Mr Cowgill will be replaced by Mr Richard Dunn, who is director of productions for the past three years has been involved in the network policy making on cable and satellite.

Mr Cowgill's fall started rumours last night that the deal to put Dallas back onto BBC-1 screens is imminent.



Mr Bryan Cowgill — "IBA to blame"

— and that the announcement would be possible by Wednesday night, when the final episode of the present series is broadcast.

The deal being struck is unprecedented in its three-way trade-off. It is further complicated by the acrimonious relationships between the controller of the rights to the series, Mr Kevin O'Sullivan, chairman of Worldvision, and the BBC and ITV, which he regards as being in unprincipled collusion.

With the BBC refusing to go above its January offer, around £47,500 an episode, and Worldvision refusing to take less than the £60,000 quoted in its Thames contract, the bargain appears to be that the ITV companies will make up all or part of the difference for the privilege of not showing the series.

The split in the ITV ranks has been revealed by a programme controllers' meeting last week at which 10 of the 14 companies involved sided with Thames in agreeing to the series next season. The three opponents, however, Yorkshire, Central, and Granada, account for some 50 per cent of the total ITV audience.

Mr Cowgill, aged 57, last night defended his bid for Dallas as a good commercial purchase, and not one which would put the price of other US series through the ceiling.

If the network had screened in Thames's share would have been £100,000 an episode which would still have made it the cheapest programme in its peak time schedule. Throughout the affair the other three executive directors on the Thames board, including Mr Dunn, supported this view.

When the deal between BBC, ITV, and Worldvision is announced the Office of Fair Trading will show renewed interest.

The management upheaval will not make life any easier for Thames Television, which has suffered more than other companies from this year's stagnation in advertising revenue.

Its sales director resigned suddenly earlier this year and his successor, Mr Jonathan Shier, has already caused an upheaval in the department. Richard Dunn was apparently being groomed for the managing director's chair, as one of the younger breed of ITV manager-technocrats, with Mr Cowgill succeeding as chairman.

Mr Cowgill came up through local journalism, joined the BBC's outside broadcast unit, was head of sport for nine years, and became controller of BBC-1 in 1974.

Union afraid cuts will lead to tension and violence

Prisons to save cash by closing 80 workshops

By Paul Brown

More than 80 prison workshops will be closed and 300 instructor jobs will be lost under a Home Office plan to save money in prisons in England and Wales.

Manufacturing carried out by prisoners costs the prison department £2 for every £1 of goods sold. Losses are running at £25 million a year.

The Home Office has called in City accountants, Price Waterhouse and Coopers and Lybrand, to advise on the remaining workshops.

Most of the output is uniforms, prison furniture, mail bags and other goods for government agencies, but quite a large amount goes out for private sale, including large numbers of T-shirts.

There are more than 2,000 products, including the outside boxes for burglar alarms.

In a Commons written reply yesterday the Home Secretary promised that the closure of the workshops would not mean that prisoners would spend

more time in their cells. They would be found more maintenance jobs round the prisons.

There are 312 workshops involving 98 different trades in 128 prisons. There are more than 1,000 instructors. About a third are prison officers and the rest civilians.

One problem is that with the increase in the number of remand prisoners who do not have to work the workshops are less and less used. In 1975 the number of hours worked in prison industries by a much smaller prison population was 21 million hours. In 1985 it is expected to be 9.1 million.

Top of the Home Office list for closure are 68 workshops working less than 15 hours a week. It is hoped that most of the jobs lost will go in natural wastage or movement to other prisons due to be opened in the next few years.

The Home Office intended to save £10 million in a full year, but so far the details of the closure programme have not been worked out. Further reorganisation will be needed before the Prison Department can reach the target of breaking even financially in five years.

Winders fix meeting with union rebels

By Jane McLoughlin, Industrial Relations Correspondent

North Staffordshire winders, a key group of 40 who operate miners' cages, decided yesterday to talk to Nottinghamshire pitmen about joining a federation separate from the National Union of Mineworkers.

Mr Roy Lynk, leader of the breakaway Nottinghamshire miners, also claimed as "a slight victory" the decision by representatives of the NUM's 18,000-strong white-collar section to hold further discussions on leaving the national union.

The winders told their branch secretary, Mr Steve Higginson, to contact the Nottinghamshire men and any other breakaway groups. They are interested in a federation with them and in the Durham Colliery Trade and Allied Craftsmen, created by working miners expelled during and after the NUM strike.

The National Coal Board has informally recognised the dissenting miners' union. Mr George Hurst, chairman of the group, said that the NCB had agreed to reprogramme a computer so that union subscriptions could be deducted before members receive pay packets.

The new union and Mr Lynk's group have agreed in principle to federation. Meanwhile, members of the Colliery Officials' and Staffs' Association (COSA) are to be asked for their views on splitting from the national union at a ballot after the general council meets in August.

Mr Trevor Bell, COSA's general secretary said yesterday after a meeting of its council: "I am not saying we will not

get involved with the Nottinghamshire breakaway but our members have stated they want an independent organisation."

His members feared that they could be called upon to take part in a dispute without proper democratic consultation, and that their interests might be merged with other areas of the NUM.

The TUC and the Labour Party are trying to avoid the split between the national union and supporters of the Nottinghamshire men but there are signs of possible trouble brewing in Ham Heath colliery, North Staffordshire.

Thirty miners from Yorkshire and South Wales who worked during the strike and are considering transfers have visited with their wives with a view to transferring to Ham Heath colliery.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, is expected to add his weight today at the Durham miners' gala to cautious attempts to prevent a breach in the movement over the breakaway Nottinghamshire union.

He is likely to stress unity and the importance of unions carrying the support of their members. Mr Lynk's group must ballot members before it can be legally launched.

The Trade and Industry Secretary, Mr Norman Tebbit, said in a speech at Chelmsford last night that Mr Kinnock has used Mr Scargill, the NUM president, as a scapegoat for Labour's failure at the Brecon by-election while refusing to give wholehearted backing to the Nottinghamshire breakaway union.

Mr Kinnock will be sharing a platform with Mr Scargill

Treasury presses Fowler for NHS changes

By Colin Brown, Political Reporter

Radical reforms of primary health care are being urged on health ministers by the Treasury in return for some protection in the Cabinet's review of public expenditure.

The Treasury is believed to support some of the ideas advanced by Professor Alain Enthoven of Stanford University, California, in a policy review of the NHS which will be followed up with a more wide-ranging report later this year.

He has suggested that pilot schemes should be established to allow GPs to operate more closely with hospitals. In some cases they should be encouraged to take on more minor surgery.

The idea, supported by the BMA, is that GPs would be more cost-effective than hospitals for many illnesses currently referred to consultants. Doctors would be encouraged to reduce queues by buying care from private specialists, for example, with hip operations.

Professor Enthoven's main proposal is for an internal market with district health authorities competing for patient care. That would be too far-reaching to produce any short-term savings but other proposals have gained substantial ministerial support.

Ministers are understood to be actively looking at ways suggested by Professor Enthoven for improving the ability of patients to choose the time of their operations.

This was reflected in a speech by Mr John Patten, the junior health minister, this week when he said the Government was planning to produce proposals which would be designed "to make services more sensitive and responsive to the need of the patient."

The proposals are to be included in a Department of Health green paper which has been delayed for a year. It was thought that it was being postponed indefinitely but it is understood that the Treasury is keen to revive the efficiency of the family practitioner services.

The Social Services Secretary, Mr Norman Fowler, will have to persuade the Treasury that he can guarantee more value for money, particularly on the family practitioner services, which are not cash-limited.

Mr Patten suggested that the Government would back another proposal for allowing GPs to issue prescriptions about their services, giving details about surgery times, whether the practice employed a female doctor or provided ante-natal care.

The cabinet will not face the difficult decisions about where cuts in the 1986/7 budget should fall until after the summer. Ministers will hold bilateral meetings to seek savings in the bids which are believed to overshoot budgets by more than £5 billion.

Dr David Owen, the leader of the SDP, last night urged voters to vote in favour of an Alliance motion on Monday insisting that the Government should fund the nurses' pay rise, which will largely fall on the health authorities.

Convicted killer is innocent

By Malcolm Deas

A former policeman who served four years of a seven-year sentence for manslaughter after important police evidence has been withheld from his counsel was declared innocent yesterday.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, said it would be an understatement to describe the case of Mr Keith Fellowes, aged 37, who was convicted in 1970 of killing Mr Harold Parkinson as extremely disturbing.

"This is not a case of a verdict being unsafe or unsatisfactory. It has been proved conclusively to the satisfaction of this court that this man did not commit this crime," he said.

Lord Lane said the trial had been impeccably conducted by Mr Justice Causar. It had coincided with the breakup of Mr Fellowes' first marriage.

The defendant had been in a "psychologically fragile" state at the time and his lawyers had decided not to call him because he would have cut a sorry figure.

The Crown had claimed that Mr Fellowes' motive for killing Mr Parkinson, aged 67, was that Mr Parkinson was a part-time detective investigating his marital affairs. A book found in Mr Parkinson's house in



Mr Keith Fellowes and his wife, Coral, outside Court of Appeal in London after his conviction had been quashed yesterday.

cluded the name of Mr Fellowes' mother-in-law.

But defence counsel was never informed that the name was there because Mr Parkinson ran a debt-collecting agency and it referred to an unpaid coal bill.

Mr Fellowes' conviction was first called into question when a police informer, Leonard Pilot, referred to Mr Parkinson

North Wales, Mr R. E. Evans. It was subsequently referred to the Appeal Court by the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan.

Lord Lane yesterday asked whether there would be any disciplinary charges against the police. Mr Richard Clay, counsel for the Crown, said the case was now "static" since many of the officers involved were now retired or dead.

Mr Fellowes, of Binsfield, Berkshire, who became a "born again Christian" in 1978, was in court with his second wife when the verdict was announced. He said afterwards: "It's the fulfilment of a dream. It's been a test of my faith in God. Now I really believe there is justice."

Asked whether he felt bitter, he said: "Unless you're in this position and these circumstances you can never manage to understand the trauma of serving a sentence, of being completely incarcerated by the state and yet knowing you are totally innocent. But bitterness — no. There's no bitterness left in my life now."

Mr Fellowes will receive compensation. In a similar case, Mr John Press, who was freed in 1981 after serving eight years of a life sentence when the evidence on which he had been convicted was discredited, received £77,900.

Live Aid's £1m an hour aim to help feed starving of Africa

By Gareth Parry

LIVE AID, history's biggest pop concert, aims to raise around £1 million an hour today for African famine relief.

Its beguiling, Bob Geldof, the 32-year-old Irish rock musician, now more famous as a fund-raiser than lead singer of the Boomtown Rats, acknowledges the irony of pop stars saving Ethiopians from starvation: "It's pathetic that the price of a life is a plastic record. But if that's the way it has to be, you have to use glamour."

Sixty-three rock acts will be playing on both sides of the Atlantic. Their music and images transmitted from Wembley Stadium and Philadelphia by 11 satellites to a potential television audience of 1.5 billion people in 169 countries, including the Soviet Union and the United States.

"I reckon we'll get about £10 million. That's a conservative estimate," said Mr Geldof.

The money will come from 72,000 Wembley tickets at £25 apiece, with a similar audience at JFK Stadium, Philadelphia, plus the worldwide sales of 16 hours of television and radio.

Live Aid is a natural successor to Geldof's Band Aid record. Do They Know It's Christmas? which, with its American counterpart, We Are The World, seems likely to raise nearly £26 million — or as much as the British Government gave to Ethiopia last year.

Each country receiving the concert is setting up a telephone so that viewers can donate more money.

More money will come from corporate sponsorship and merchandising, although the organisers were worried yesterday that the thousands who travel to Wembley will become prey to pirates selling everything from cashmere to mock souvenir programmes.

Official Live Aid goods will be clearly marked with the charity's logo, a guitar-shaped outline of Africa.

The Wembley show begins at noon, after the Prince and Princess of Wales have met



WEMBLEY WAIT: Three early arrivals camp out to get a good place.

the stars, and the transatlantic bill includes some of the most famous names in rock music, including Status Quo, Sting, Elton John and Paul McCartney.

The Who are back together after several years, and Ozzy Osbourne is reunited with Black Sabbath. Guitarist Jimmy Page and vocalist Robert Plant will perform some Led Zeppelin songs.

The Pretenders and Phil Collins will play both concerts, thanks to Concorde, which has been provided free by British Airways.

The acts will include Soviet hard rock group Autograph, performing live from Moscow, who will be the first Russian pop stars to be seen by a worldwide TV audience.

Donations may be sent to: Live Aid Appeal, c/o National Giro Bank, PO Box 200, Liverpool L69 3HW.

Suicide kills his family

A man shot his wife and two children early yesterday before killing himself as armed police surrounded the house in Great Yarmouth.

Relatives and neighbours had pleaded with John Allen, aged 33, a lorry driver, to spare the children, Paul and Ann, 11 and nine, after he had killed his wife, Sharon, 30, during a row around midnight.

Mr Allen's brother, Robert, a groundsman who lives in the same street, said he was woken by shouting and shots.

Robert Allen said he believed that his brother, who suffered from depression, was extremely jealous, and his sister-in-law had had affairs, and she had only recently returned home after walking out.

Mr Allen said: "I saw John standing at an upstairs window. He called out, 'It's no use you coming round here. She asked for this.'"

"I begged him not to harm the children, but he called back, 'I've already done it. Now I'm going to kill myself.'"

Labour GLC loss

By John Carvel, Political Correspondent

The Labour Party this week lost a GLC by-election when the Alliance won Vauxhall.

The by-election was one of three caused by the resignation of GLC councillors not wishing to serve for a fifth year after the Government's decision to scrap the GLC elections due last May. Labour performed creditably in the other two.

The Vauxhall by-election was caused by the resignation of Mr Brian Davies, former leader of ILEA, who gained 48.7 per cent in 1981, followed by the Conservative, Mr John Gifford, on 44.9. The Tories did not put up a candidate.

Ms Margaret Jenkins held Putney for Labour with 61.4 per cent, with the Alliance second on 24.6 and no Tory candidate. Mr Robert Neil held Romford for the Conservatives with 42.7 per cent. Labour narrowly beat the Alliance into second place.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE

Country	Party	Percentage
Austria	SPÖ	100
Belgium	PS	55
Denmark	MR	25
France	PS	25
Germany	SPD	17

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sizewell verdict delayed

THE report of the Sizewell inquiry will not now be ready before November or December, writes John Hooper. Lord Gray, who acts as spokesman for the Department of Energy in the Lords, said on Thursday that the inquiry, Sir Patrick Laidlaw QC, "hopes to deliver his main recommendations before the end of this year."

The inquiry into the plan to build a pressurised water reactor on the Suffolk coast lasted 240 days and took evidence from 120 witnesses, setting a record for public inquiries.

Journalists begin computer setting

JOURNALISTS at the Portsmouth Echo, part of the Portsmouth and Southdown News group, will on Monday start computer setting of editorial copy with the agreement of the National Graphical Association, writes Jane McLoughlin.

The paper's management has agreed to NGA proposals that computer setting should proceed in editorial departments, while further talks are held about computer setting in the advertising department. The NGA has accepted a management pledge of no compulsory redundancies, and the possibility of transfer and retraining for other jobs within the company.

Midland bus drivers to strike

BUS drivers in the West Midlands have balloted to strike from Monday in support of a pay claim. The drivers have rejected a package which the area passenger transport executive claims would boost basic wages from £122 a week to around £150. Talks may continue over the weekend in an attempt to avert the strike.

Kuwaiti gaoled on drink charge

A WEALTHY Arab oil man who was still clutching a glass of whisky as he stepped from his limousine yesterday morning for jumping a red light in Paddington, London, was gaoled yesterday for 28 days.

Nadar Idrees, aged 28, a Kuwaiti businessman who was more than three times over the legal drink limit, was also banned from driving for two years.

MP compensated by car thief

A YOUTH who was apprehended by Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal MP for Yeovil, when stealing car wheels in a London street, was yesterday sentenced to 100 hours of community service work and ordered to pay Mr Ashdown £100 compensation for punching him.

The 44-year-old MP tried to make a citizen's arrest of Colin Mason, unemployed, of Walworth, South London, on June 12, and got a black eye and a bruise. Horseferry Road court heard.

Short's hopes fading fast

BRITISH chess champion, Nigel Short, now has little hope of becoming a world title candidate after he resigned on move 50 to the Soviet Union at the international last night, writes Leonard Barden.

With four points out of eight, Short dropped back to ninth place, two and a half points behind the leader, Vladimir of the Soviet Union. Van der Wiel, of Holland, is second while Sokolov, of the Soviet Union, and Jansa, of Czechoslovakia, are joint third.

MPs proclaim value of their American servants

By Alan Travis

MPs yesterday mounted a vigorous defence of their increasing use of temporary research assistants at the Commons, many of whom are provided free by American universities.

Feelings ran high during the debate on the Commons services committee report on the increasing pressure on office accommodation, campaign and library facilities at Westminster.

Many MPs had been infuriated to hear the charge by Mr Enoch Powell, the member for Down South, on BBC radio yesterday morning that an MP who was unable to work without a research assistant was incompetent.

Mr John Biffen, the nor-

mally placid leader of the House, also upset some members when he observed that the cost of running Parliament, excluding MPs and peers' pay and allowance, had risen from £35 million to £48 million over the years, a 35 per cent increase.

"This is not a question of parliamentary squander amidst public affluence," he angrily told the chamber of MPs pressing for more secretarial and research allowances. "I knew the House of Commons before the time of the research assistant and the government was given a rougher and tougher time then by the backbenchers."

The current use of research assistants was just a fashion,

and he was not convinced that their number should be increased.

Mr John Silkin, MP for Deptford and chairman of the Commons select committee on services, said he knew of no permanent solution to the problem of striking a balance between one MP's needs and another's freedom.

The report recommended that security checks be made on research students, and that they be given a proper ground before being taken on.

There are 469 research assistants working in the Commons, more than half of them temporary. Some 50 are US university students who work for MPs for up to four months. The

committee proposed to limit the number of permits for research assistants to 150 in a year, with only 50 issued at any one time.

Mr Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall South, who has helped to organise the American students' programmes, said the interns had been criticised every time a photocopy broke down and had been accused of being CIA and KGB spies.

Mr Norman Lamont had reportedly said that he got his black eye when he was woken by a door which had been left open by an American research

grateful to anyone, British or foreign, who is prepared to give up their time, and expertise to help us," said Mr George.

"Democracy is expensive but the prerequisite is that MPs do not get their information simply by reading the Guardian or the Daily Telegraph that morning and then sound off. Ministers can cope with that but they cannot cope with a properly researched question."

Many Labour MPs felt the idea of a lone MP operating without any back-up was a scandalous view of his role at a time when proper scrutiny of the executive had never been more necessary.

Lawns were made for us. Flymo®

Legal blow ends church refuge couple's fight to stay in Britain

By Sarah Bosley

Vassilis and Katerina Nicola, the Cypriot couple who took sanctuary in a London church, announced yesterday that they would be leaving Britain "with dignity" on Monday.

The couple, who have lived in St Mary's Church, Eversholt Street, Camden, for the past 135 days, were refused leave at the High Court on Tuesday to challenge a Home Office deportation order granted six years ago.

Although the Home Office has offered the couple 10 days of freedom from arrest to prepare for deportation, Mr George Eugeniou, of the Cypriot Advisory Service, said that they did not need the Home Office's "petty generosity".

They would leave of their own accord on a free flight offered to them by Cyprus Airways.

Mr Eugeniou praised those at St Mary's and in the wider religious community for their support of Mr and Mrs Nicola, but he said he was disappointed that the Archbishop of Canterbury had decided not to lend his voice to their cause.

He said: "It would have given a great boost to the morale of the couple if he had

done. The church leaders should have gone further than they have gone. They have accepted the legal argument, but we say it is a moral argument."

The couple were forced to leave their home in the northern part of Cyprus in 1974 when the Turkish army invaded. Their claim to stay in Britain was based on their assertion that they had been displaced.

In a statement yesterday they claimed: "It is the fault of the British Government that we find ourselves in this situation today." Britain at the time of the invasion was "a guarantor power," they say, and yet did nothing to prevent the invasion.

The couple's Labour Euro-MP, Mr Stan Newens, backed their view.

He said: "We had a moral right to give them refuge. In fact, we have denied them that refuge. I think it is utterly appalling. A future Labour government, he believed, would make it possible for Mr and Mrs Nicola to return to Britain."

Mr Nicola said: "I feel very angry when a man has a just cause and cannot get justice. Next week it is the anniversary of losing our home, and it is really a bitter blow that we have to be thrown out of our home in England."

He and his wife, who he says has been made ill by the stress of their months avoiding arrest in the church, will have to join his brothers and sisters in Cyprus, themselves refugees in poor and overcrowded conditions.

The couple, who supported themselves during their 11-year stay in Britain working in a clothing factory, do not know if they will be able to find work in Cyprus.

Brittan refuses to sack chief constable



Kenneth Oxford — pleased by outcome

By Paul Brown

The Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, yesterday rejected a call by some Merseyside police committee members to sack the region's chief constable, Mr Kenneth Oxford.

A police committee delegation including a Conservative and a Labour member, and a magistrate, opposed to the dismissal, called on Mr Brittan yesterday for 90 minutes. Mr Oxford was present and gave his views.

In a statement afterwards the Home Office said that no evidence was forthcoming at the meeting that the police force was inefficient or inadequate.

The committee was divided in its views on whether Mr Oxford should retire.

The Home Secretary concluded that he had no grounds for, and no intention of, approving any call by the committee for Mr Oxford's retirement.

Mrs Margaret Simsey, the chairwoman of the police committee, said: "I am bitterly disappointed at the failure of the Home Secretary to begin to understand the situation in Merseyside."

She said the police policy in Merseyside was not appropriate for the area but the Home Secretary had no understanding of the situation.

Mr John George, a Labour councillor, said that Mr Oxford was not prepared to take any notice of the elected representatives of the people of Merseyside. As a result the Home Secretary's advice that both sides should work together was useless.

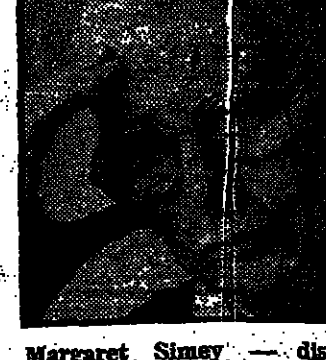
Mrs Simsey said they would return to Liverpool and reconsider the position. There was a special meeting called for Tuesday to discuss the crisis in policing in the region and the Home Secretary's decision could be considered.

Mr Oxford left the meeting saying that he was "rather pleased with the decision."

Mr Sydney Moss, a Conservative member of the police committee, and a former chairman, said the Home Secretary's decision was "the best possible decision." He was "perfectly satisfied with the performance of the police and he was confident of a good chief constable."

He said the police committee had carried out a political vendetta against the chief constable because of the miners' strike.

Mr Albert Globe, the magistrate on the committee, said that Mr Oxford had the support of the bench.



Margaret Simsey — disappointed by meeting

Wife loses right to husband's house

A wife married for 30 years who made no contribution to the purchase of the matrimonial home has no financial interest in it, the Appeal Court decided yesterday.

Mrs Sheila Dobson, of Shipley, Yorkshire, said she had performed all her duties and had brought up two children.

After 12 years, when the children were older, she had worked part-time in market research, contributing to household costs and decorating. She said she had been advised that she had acquired an interest in the matrimonial home. At Bradford County Court last year Judge Pickles decided that her interest was "substantial."

The three Appeal Court judges decided that she had no interest in the house.

They unanimously allowed an appeal by mortgagees, the Midland Bank, against Judge Pickles' ruling that the bank's application for possession failed because it was unenforceable against Mrs Dobson.

Mr Dobson put up the house as security for a business loan, but the business ran into difficulties.

Mr Dobson had no answer to the bank's claim for possession, but his wife contested the case on the basis that she had an interest.

Lord Justice Fox said Mrs Dobson had made no direct contribution to the purchase price, and there was no arrangement that she should work to help to pay off the mortgage.

By the mid-1960s, when she earned small sums, she used part of it for household expenses, "but it is not suggested that she did that in reliance upon any understanding as to joint ownership of the house," he said.

She also did some ordinary periodic decorating, but see no reason to suppose that was because of any arrangement that she would do so on account of a common intention as to joint ownership.

The Dobsons were refused leave to appeal to the Lords, but can apply directly to the Lords appeal committee.



Pupils from Grangetown Primary School, Middlesbrough, play an Elizabethan Suite in London at the start of this weekend's National Festival of Music for Youth, which involves 5,000 musicians.

Barking dog test

By Alan Travis

THE London Borough of Barking was aptly chosen yesterday to be one of four areas for a pilot scheme to persuade dog owners to clear up after their pets.

Under new bylaws which come into force on September 2, dog owners can be fined up to £100 if they fail to remove faeces deposited by their dogs on designated footpaths, grass verges and recreation grounds. Registered blind dog owners will be exempted.

The one-year pilot scheme will cover parks and pavements in Barking, Gosport, Hampshire, Rochester, Kent, and North-West Leicestershire. Dog owners will be able to buy "poop-scoops" to carry with them and the four local authorities are to make provision for the disposal of canine faeces removed from public areas by dog owners.

Mr David Mellor, junior Home Office minister, said yesterday: "Dog owners have a responsibility to look after their animals, but they also have a responsibility to the public to ensure their pets do not cause a sometimes dangerous nuisance."

Fine for school refusal

A couple who failed to send their 10-year-old son to school for a year were fined £250 at a magistrates' court in London yesterday. The parents, who were charged with failing to provide the place of their child's education, were told that the magistrate had decided against a prison sentence because the person punished by this would be their son, Leon.

Leon, who sat Maths O level this summer — two years earlier than usual — has not been in full-time education since his primary schooling ended in 1983. When he was 10, his parents moved to a new house in the area of the school, but he refused to go. His parents, who were charged with failing to provide the place of their child's education, were told that the magistrate had decided against a prison sentence because the person punished by this would be their son, Leon.

They believed that they were providing an adequate education under the 1944 Education Act, with the help of a private tutor. The Forstys are to appeal against a conviction and sentence. Leon remains at home since his primary schooling

'Uproar' warning if head is reinstated

By Michael Parkin

A Bradford Labour councillor yesterday warned of uproar if the headmaster suspended from a local school because of his criticism of the council's policies on race relations is reinstated to his post.

The case of Mr Ray Honeyford, headmaster of Drummond Middle School, is to be reviewed at a meeting in Bradford today between officials of the city council and the National Association of Head Teachers. The NAHT, which is seeking a judicial review of the case, is attending only on the assurance that reinstatement for Mr Honeyford is on the agenda.

The association believes that Mr Honeyford is entitled to reinstatement simply on the

recommendation of the school governors that he should be allowed to return to his post. Mr Clifford Hayes, chief assistant to the general secretary of the NAHT, Mr David Hart, said that he expected today's discussions to centre on the conditions for Mr Honeyford's reinstatement. These were not too outrageous there could be a basis for a settlement.

But the Labour group on Bradford council are vehemently opposed to Mr Honeyford's return to the school. "To put children back into the conditions for which they were expelled is educationally unacceptable," said Mr John Lambert, the Labour spokesman on education.

He warned of "uproar" if Mr Honeyford was allowed to return to his post.

Air show protest

By David Fairhall

Members of Ex-Services CND will join a local peace group outside the gates of RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, this weekend to protest at an RAF Benevolent Fund air tattoo being used to sell arms.

The display at the US air base is to raise funds for RAF casualties and their dependants. The theme of this year's display is in-disguise, revealing, but Ex-Services CND says that the tattoo's introductory brochure shows that aerospace arms will use the occasion to promote military sales. Potential customers from Colombia, Paraguay and Turkey are among those invited to the display.

The organisation's press spokesman, Mr John Hurst, says that his members are unhappy that the display should be used, however indirectly, to sell arms to such repressive regimes.

"This is not fighting terrorism it is supporting it," he said. "The Government should give disabled servicemen and war widows proper pensions, instead of financing them out of air displays at American nuclear support bases."

Rare bird recovered

By Michael Morris

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is planning to prosecute a man alleged to have been in illegal possession of a Welsh red kite. There are only 30 breeding pairs in the UK, all of them in Wales.

Investigation officers from the society and police raided a man's home in the Nottingham area on Thursday night. Nottingham county magistrate will issue a summons against the man, aged 27, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The case concerns a schedule 1 bird and the man is stated not to be a registered keeper.

Mr Peter Robinson, of the society's investigations branch, said it would be the first case in its knowledge of a Welsh red kite being recovered.

Fines of up to £2,000 can be imposed on anyone proved to possess a bird or egg of a protected species. The five-year-old kite recovered in Nottingham was on its way back to Wales yesterday. The society will try to reintroduce the bird to its habitat, failing which a registered keeper will try to restore it to a state fit to survive in the wild.

55 held after dawn raids in theft case

By Michael Parkin

Three hundred police officers made dawn raids in Yorkshire yesterday on the homes of 47 men and eight women who are alleged to have posed as bogus officials to steal from old and infirm people.

The suspects were taken to police stations throughout West Yorkshire for questioning about 400 offences over the past five years involving thefts totalling £750,000. They are alleged to have posed as gas or electricity meter raters or DISS officials. British Telecom workers and police officers to commit burglaries and robberies.

There are other cases of

burglary, theft and deception to investigate. The offences are alleged to have taken place in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Lancashire, Durham, Humberside, Leicestershire, the Home Counties and London.

The operation, code-named Merger, drew on detectives from the Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Lancashire, Durham, Humberside, Leicestershire, the Home Counties and London. The operation, code-named Merger, drew on detectives from the Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Lancashire, Durham, Humberside, Leicestershire, the Home Counties and London.

Most of the arrests were made in Leeds, with others in Scarborough, Selby and Knaresborough.

Denning attacks surrogacy bill

The bill to outlaw commercial surrogate baby agencies does not go far enough, Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, said yesterday when the measure was given final approval by the Lords.

Lord Denning called for urgent legislation to ban all surrogacy arrangements for money. He said that the Government should not wait two or three years before legislation on the Warnock committee report could be passed.

During the third reading debate Lord Denning said that the bill did not prevent the commissioning mother or the carrying mother from paying or receiving money.

"It doesn't outlaw doctors or professionals who charge very large fees for the purpose. All it outlaws at the moment is the Rolls, said yesterday when the measure was given final approval by the Lords.

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Earl of Caithness said that one of the commercial agencies already operating in Britain had announced that it would cease operations.

"That is the best indication of this limited bill. The larger bill will raise greater questions and will be highly controversial. The Prime Minister has said the Government aims to introduce a comprehensive bill as soon as practicable on the matters dealt with in the Warnock report," he said.

The Surrogacy Arrangements Bill received an unopposed third reading. It is due to receive the royal assent shortly.

Oxford Class lists: Natural Sciences

The following Class Lists have been issued by Oxford University Press

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Syria sends senior army men to implement security plan

Beirut names hijackers as 'prelude to prosecution'

Beirut: Lebanon's state radio reported yesterday that Government lawyers were ordered to prosecute the hijackers of a TWA jetliner and for the first time publicly named the men, one of whom killed an American hostage.

It said in its 11 a.m. news broadcast that the names of the hijackers had been "referred to the competent judicial authorities" in the Mount Lebanon part of Beirut, which includes the international airport.

But the report was dropped without explanation from further newscasts. Government sources, who requested anonymity, said this resulted from instructions "from above."

The broadcast came as two senior Syrian army officers left Damascus for Beirut to help implement a new security plan aimed at halting clashes between Muslim militias in west Beirut.

Lebanese Muslim leaders agreed to the plan earlier this week after talks in Damascus with Vice-President Abdel-Hamid Khaddam and other senior officials.

The Syrian Government newspaper, *Tishrin*, said Syria holds the Muslim leaders responsible for implementing the accord without delay. The plan calls for rival militias in mainly-Muslim west Beirut to disarm and disarm.

"Any delay in implementing the agreement is unacceptable," *Tishrin* said. "Syria is determined to defuse the powder keg in Lebanon. It can no longer accept the concept of rebuilding Lebanon on a sectarian basis. This time, a national solution is required."

The Beirut radio broadcast said the names of the TWA hijackers were referred to Mount Lebanon "as a prelude to prosecuting them and to taking adequate legal procedures against them."

Mr Maurice Khawam, prosecutor-general of Mount Lebanon County, told reporters in Christian east Beirut after a meeting with President Amin Gemayel on Wednesday that his office would move against the TWA hijackers.

The radio named the hijackers as Ali Atwi, Ali Yonis and Ahmed Gharibeh, but said it had no further information. Atwi was arrested at Athens airport before boarding TWA flight 845 on June 14, but was later flown to join his two comrades in Algeria, where the commandeered plane landed twice. The other two men had hijacked the Boeing 727 shortly after take-off from the Greek capital.

Government sources, who asked not to be identified, noted that after 10 years of civil war the judiciary — like the Government — functions in name only. Courts handle mainly civil matters. Although alleged criminals are occasionally arrested by police, they are rarely brought before judges or magistrates.

The announcement of legal action against the three men hijackers was welcomed in Washington by the White House spokesman Larry Speakes, as "a step forward."

Asked if the Administration would prefer that the hijack suspects be tried in Lebanon or in the United States, Mr Speakes said the Government has not expressed a preference. — AP/Reuters.

Day of mourning after bombings

KUWAIT: The Government declared a national day of mourning yesterday as a huge mob gathered for the bombers behind two coffeehouse explosions on Thursday evening.

The Cabinet met in continuous emergency session, and a top security official voiced hope for an early breakthrough in the search, while dismissing reports that arrests had already been made. State-controlled radio and television dropped scheduled programmes and instead broadcast readings from the Koran.

No light has been shed on the identity of the bombers or the motive for the attacks, although Agence France Presse in Paris received a claim of responsibility from a caller claiming to represent the "Organisation of Arab Revolutionary Brigades."

The bombs ripped through two seafood restaurants. The daily al-Qabas said naval patrol craft had drawn a tight security net down the 140-mile coastline to help close escape routes. Land border crossings were shut after the blasts. — Reuters.

Kuwait's vigorous democracy earns it a host of enemies

From Jonathan Birchall in Kuwait

"ONLY Kuwaitis go there, with their families; they were after Kuwaitis," one man said yesterday morning as he watched the police picking through the wreckage of wooden benches, smashed hubbub pipes, scattered dominoes and bloodstains in bombed sea-side coffeehouses.

For Kuwaitis, Thursday night's twin explosions, which left at least 11 dead and almost 80 injured, were the latest and most brutal proof so far that someone is out to get them.

For the coffeehouses are where men go with their families to drink and smoke and chat, especially on a Thursday evening.

Some 100 yards from one of the bombed cafes, a crater in the road marks the spot where, less than six weeks ago, a suicide car bomber rammed the motorcade of Kuwait's Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed, killing four people, but leaving the Sheikh only cut and bruised.

In April a Kuwaiti editor escaped a machine-gun attack outside his newspaper, surviving four bullet wounds. This March an Iraqi diplomat and his son were less lucky, shot dead in their beds in a suburb of Kuwait City.

In December, 1984, a Kuwaiti airliner was hijacked to

Tehran, apparently by Lebanese Shi'ites; two American passengers were shot and Kuwaiti passengers were singled out with the Americans to be beaten and tortured.

Most, but not all, of Kuwait's political violence can be traced back to December 12, 1983, when a wave of bombs exploded at targets including the American and French embassies and Kuwaiti government institutions, killing six and wounding more than 80.

Soon afterwards, a Kuwaiti security court sentenced 17 Shi'ites — 13 Iraqis, one Kuwaiti and three Lebanese — for their involvement in the bombings; the only large group of pro-Iranian Shi'ite terrorists ever successfully apprehended. Three are still under sentence of death.

All were said at the time to be members of Al Dawa al-Islamia, the Islamic Call Party, a group of pro-Iranian Iraqi Shi'ites. During the trial Iraqi exiles in Tehran broadcast threats against Kuwaiti interests "anywhere in the world."

The threats were made good, largely it seems through the Lebanese connection. In the Tehran hijack, three or four hijackers believed to be Lebanese Shi'ites sought, but failed to get, the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners.

This summer, before the attack on the Emir, a Lebanese Shi'ite group, holding seven American hostages in the Lebanon against the Kuwaiti rulers that they were running out of patience: the attack was followed by claims of responsibility from the Lebanon.

So far no-one has claimed responsibility for the killings on Thursday, but Western diplomats are looking again to the Shi'ite connection.

Although Shi'ite attacks on Kuwait have resulted from the Kuwaiti support for Iraq in the Gulf War, the Kuwaiti authorities have refrained from directly accusing Iraq of organising a terrorist campaign against them.

Unofficially, however, Kuwaiti officials are said to see Iran's shadow in the attacks: Tehran has yet to return the hijacked Airbus from the December hijacking or to bring the hijackers to trial.

Kuwait has other enemies: with a vociferous elected national assembly and a lively press, both unparalleled in the region, it is easy enough to make them. Most recently there have been exchanges with Syria, heavily criticised during the June attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

The April assassination attempt on the newspaper editor, Ahmed Jarrah, has been attributed to Syrian-backed

agents. One Kuwaiti listed Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria and the Lebanon as possibly behind Thursday's bombing.

With an expatriate population making up 60 per cent of its 1.8 million people, Kuwait is particularly exposed to external subversion. The Thursday bombs are an acute embarrassment to the Government, coming so soon after the attack on the Emir. That was followed by house-to-house searches and unobtrusive deportations, which Western diplomats put at least 500.

Kuwait has one of the highest ratios of police to population in the world, equipped with the latest in IBM computers. But, with exposed and easily traversable frontiers and a transient population, Kuwait realises that complete security is not possible.

Evidence of Kuwaiti complicity in the violence is limited: Kuwait's Shi'ite population, making up an estimated 25 to 30 per cent of the total, has its grumbles but is normally emphatically Kuwaiti first and Shi'ite second. In the short term, at least, Kuwait's expatriates must stay. Kuwaitis, meanwhile, so long sheltered from personal political violence, are discovering the risk of maintaining an independent political line. So far, despite the cost, there is no sign of their giving that up.

Clashes over UN women's congress

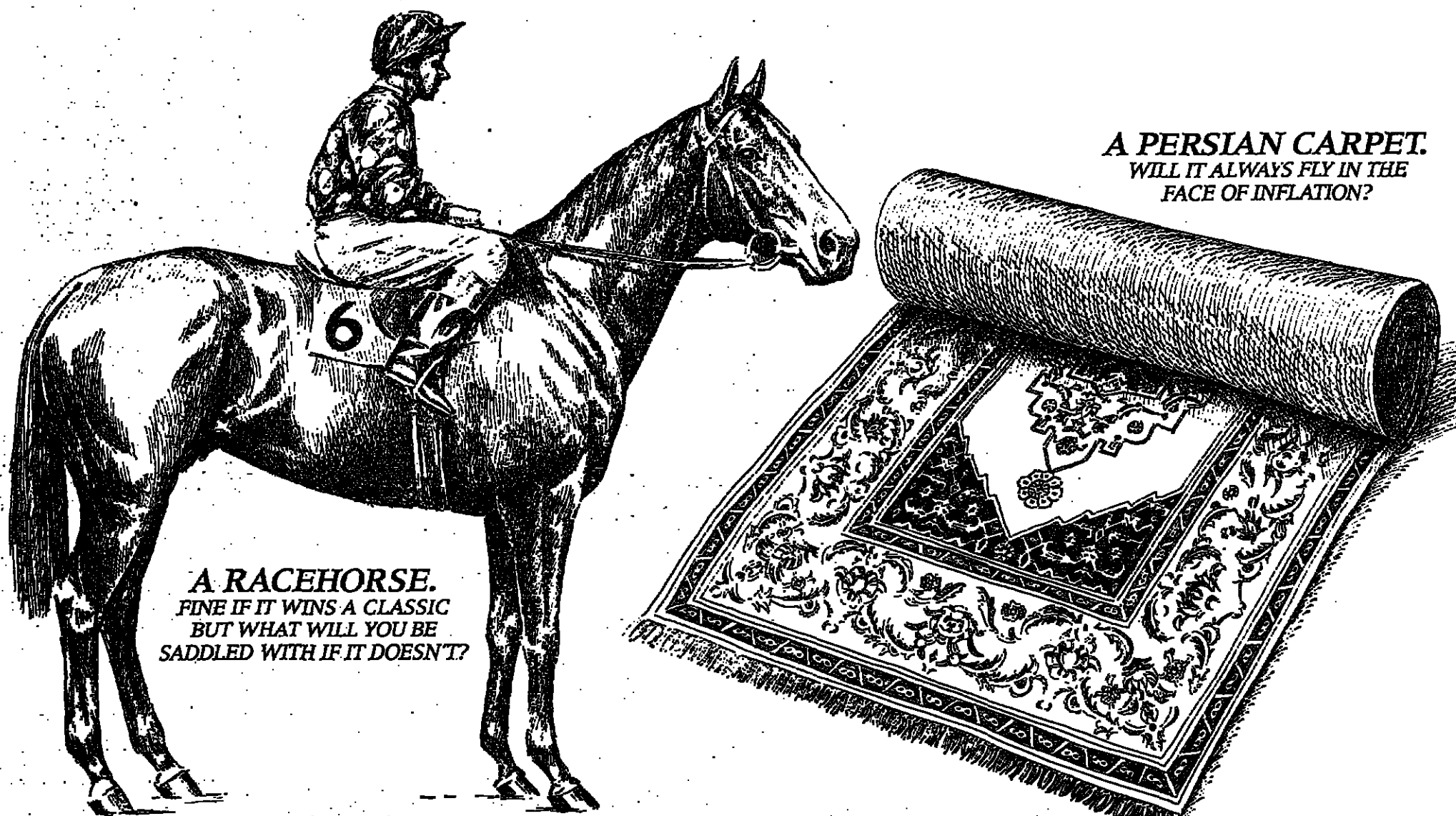
Nairobi: A Palestine Liberation Organisation official said yesterday that Washington was using "intellectual terrorism" to influence a forthcoming UN conference on women in favour of Israel and South Africa.

Mr Salman el Herfi, African affairs adviser to the PLO leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, said: "The United States wants to impose its point of view, while saying at the same time the conference should not be politicised. This in itself is politics."

Several PLO officials are in Nairobi for a meeting of non-governmental women's organisations in preparation for a UN conference which starts on July 15 to review the achievements of the UN Women's Decade.

President Reagan's daughter, Maureen, who arrived yesterday as head of the US delegation, did not comment on the political skirmishing.

The US Assistant Secretary of State for International Organisations Affairs, Mr Greg Newell, had said earlier that Washington wanted to prevent any "extraneous politicisation" in Nairobi and that the issue of Palestinian women should not be "isolated." — Reuters.



A RACEHORSE.
FINE IF IT WINS A CLASSIC
BUT WHAT WILL YOU BE
SADDLED WITH IF IT DOESN'T?

A PERSIAN CARPET.
WILL IT ALWAYS FLY IN THE
FACE OF INFLATION?

Gulf raids threaten Iran's new lifeline

Bahrain: Iraq yesterday attacked a Turkish supertanker in the Gulf, the second within a week, threatening an Iranian oil export shuttle operation from Kharg Island to the lower reaches of the waterway, shipping sources in the region said.

In Baghdad, a military spokesman said warplanes had hit a "large naval target" south of Kharg and reported a ground attack on Iranian positions in the Gulf war's central sector.

The shipping sources said the oil-laden 112,000 tonne M. Ceyhan was ablaze after being hit in the engine room on the starboard side by a missile.

Dense black smoke was hampering fire-fighting operations but all crew members had

been saved from life rafts by tug at the scene.

The M. Ceyhan is the sister ship of the M. Vatan, which was crippled earlier this week about 100 miles south of Kharg, Iran's main terminal in the north-east of the Gulf, after loading with 350,000 tonnes of oil.

Their Istanbul-based owners said both ships had been leased to Iran in April for six months to help shuttle oil from Kharg Island, inside an Iraqi-imposed war zone, to a makeshift export terminal off Sirri Island, 330 miles to the south-east.

A military spokesman in Baghdad said yesterday that Iraqi troops had mounted a lightning ground attack on Iranian positions in the central sector of the battlefield. — Reuters.

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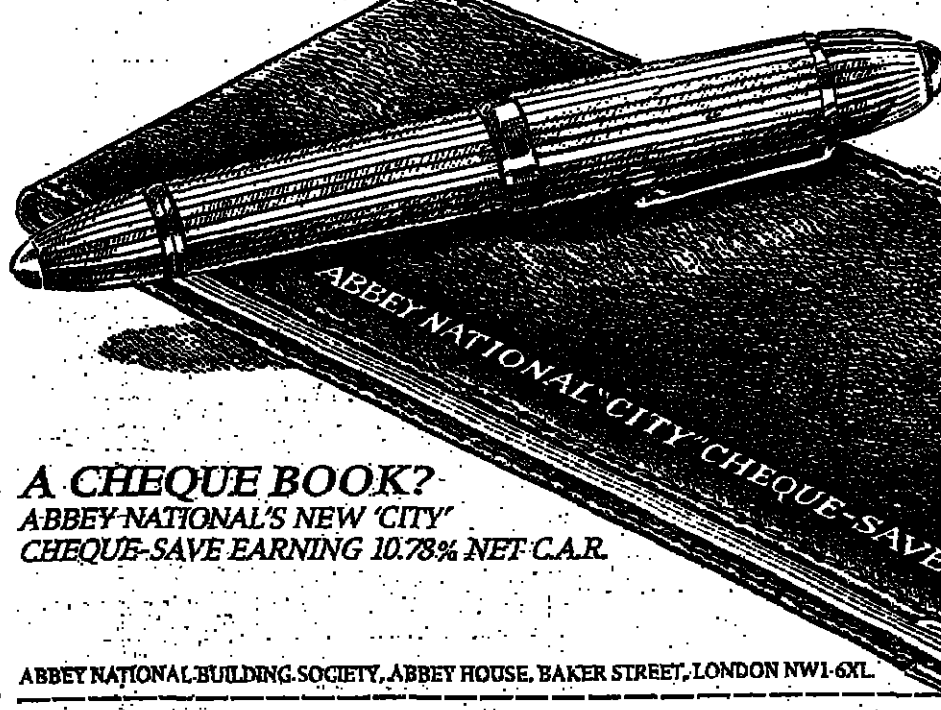
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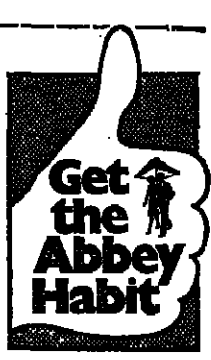
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NEWS IN BRIEF

37 boat people returned

A SOVIET ship returned 37 "boat people" to Vietnam after picking them up in the South China Sea last month, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday. The Soviet vessel *Fotik* picked up the Vietnamese in mid-June and since then its whereabouts were unknown to the UNHCR. But a UNHCR spokesman said diplomatic channels had now established that the "boat people" had been returned to Vietnam. The Soviet ship was heading for the Soviet Far East island of Sakhalin from Vung Tau, southern Vietnam, when it sent a message to the Soviet ship *Filov* shipping company that it had picked up 17 children, 18 men, and four women. — Reuters.

Rebels accused

PEACE talks in Rumania will adjourn today with little progress made on Tamil demands for autonomy, the Press Trust of India said yesterday. PTI quoted informed sources as saying that the Sri Lankan government delegation yesterday accused a guerrilla group at the talks of being responsible for an attempt to assassinate president Junius Jayewardene. — Reuters.

Envoys accepted

THE US Senate last night cleared by voice vote 24 of President Reagan's nominees for ambassadorships and State Department posts which had been held up by the Republican Senate. Jesse Helms, the North Carolina Senator, agreed to permit passage of the group, but still blocked four others he said he wanted to get recorded votes on. — Reuters.

Treason charges

A TAIWANESE businessman will face treason charges and a possible death sentence after he tried to form a separatist political party, the Taiwan garrison command said yesterday. Hsu Chang-hung, aged 44, was arrested and charged this week on his return from Japan. — Reuters.

Who's for golf?

THE Peking Golf Club, China's fourth and biggest, was established yesterday, but with membership fees set at more than \$14,000, few Chinese citizens are expected to join. The 36-hole course is being built by a Japanese company 30 miles north-east of Peking. — Reuters.

600 arrested

PAKISTANI authorities arrested 600 people and seized large quantities of arms in the western city of Quetta following Shiite unrest in which at least 27 people were killed, officials said yesterday. — Reuters.

Hussein talks

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan flew to Britain yesterday for meetings with Mrs Thatcher, the state radio reported. Jordan is believed to be planning to buy about \$300 million worth of military goods from Britain. — AP.

Strike off

SPAIN'S air traffic controllers yesterday called off a strike scheduled to take place each weekend from July 14 to August 31, a spokesman for the Spanish Confederation of Air Traffic Controllers said. — Reuters.

Drought appeal

ALGERIA has appealed for international aid for 40,000 refugees fleeing drought conditions in Chad and Niger, according to the UN Disaster Relief Organisation. — AP.

New leader

A SPECIAL Congress of Tanzania's only political party is to nominate a candidate tomorrow to succeed Julius Nyerere as president, the government-owned Daily News said yesterday. — AP.

Police injured

Santiago: A bomb seriously injured three policemen yesterday during anti-government protests on the 14th anniversary of Chile's copper mines. The bomb exploded next to a police bus in a southern Santiago suburb. — Reuters.

Oldest emperor

Tokyo: Emperor Hirohito today becomes the oldest monarch ever to reign in Japan. The 84-year-old emperor has ruled Japan for 58 years. — Reuters.

Looking in

Boris Becker's victory in the Wimbledon men's singles final was seen by an average audience of 11.9 million on BBC 2 last Sunday, the BBC says.

Minister's friend tells him to 'do the honourable thing'

Embattled Belgian hits at 'English violence'

From Derek Brown in Brussels

The Belgian Interior Minister, Mr Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, who is fighting for his political life in the wake of the Heysel football massacre in May, yesterday hit back at his critics with a blistering attack on violence in English society.

The riot at the May 29 European cup final, which led to 33 deaths, was, he said, caused by the aggression of a band of Liverpool supporters who attacked Italian Juventus fans.

"They did not batter their victims to death, but they provoked collectively their outrageous deaths," he told the Belgian Parliament.

But a key coalition partner, the floor leader, Mr Robert Henrion, said in a scathing speech that he would vote to censure the minister's inquiry report.

The inquiry had revealed casualties, confusion, and a lack of preparation by the authorities, Mr Henrion said.

The massacre, when a wall collapsed under the weight of panicking spectators, was "the collective responsibility of English society, which tolerates this violence," Mr Nothomb said.

Mr Nothomb was speaking at the start of a parliamentary debate crucial to his own career and to the prospects of the centrist coalition Government.

The mainly Socialist Opposition is expected to press a confidence vote when the debate ends later today or tomorrow.

If the verdict goes against Mr Nothomb, the Christian Demo-

crat-Liberal Government could be brought down, five months earlier than it had hoped to go to the country.

Mr Nothomb, fiercely criticised by a parliamentary committee a week ago, gave no hint that he had considered voluntary resignation. He said he approached the debate "with serenity".

The minister gave a detailed account of the division of responsibility for pre-match preparation and maintenance of order. He pointed out that the Brussels burgomaster, the provincial governor, the football authorities, and others, all had a role, as well as himself.

He stressed that the national gendarmes, for which he has a special responsibility, had been present at Heysel in sufficient strength. The tactics and direction of the force, rather than numbers, had been strongly attacked in the parliamentary report.

He said that in any future matches where even greater numbers were needed — 2,300 gendarmes were on duty at Heysel at the height of the trouble — he would prefer to ban the games outright, "because we are not in a contest between supporters and gendarmes, nor between supporters, but in theory in a match between football teams. I must remain that way, and I repeat I don't want to transform Belgium or Brussels, even for a single day, into a police state."

Mr Nothomb bitterly condemned the black marketers who sold tickets to Italian fans for a section of the ground next door to the Liverpool supporters and supposedly reserved for Belgian spectators.

"I hope that in their animosity they bitterly regret today the profits that they made on the black market," he said.

Mitterrand's powers disputed by right

From Paul Webster in Paris

Opposition leaders have angrily attacked President Mitterrand's claim that he would be entitled to retain control of foreign affairs in the event of a leftwing defeat, in general elections in March, reminding him of his own 20-year career against presidential "special areas."

Mr Mitterrand, who said that it would be equivalent to a coup if a rightwing parliament sought to take over the presidency's "special areas" of foreign affairs, will explain his attitude in a broadcast tomorrow to mark Bastille Day.

A casual talk to presidential lobby correspondents this week on "cohabitation" with an eventual rightwing parliament has succeeded in uniting the three main opposition factions while inspiring a wave of ridicule from the Communist Party who accuse him of defeatism.

The President, who has so

Mr Jacques Chirac

far managed to conduct the debate on cohabitation as a method of splitting the right, now finds himself on the defensive for tomorrow's broadcast.

Mr Mitterrand has been forced to consider the possibility of sharing power with a rightwing parliament following the Socialist Party's estimate that they could lose at least 100 of their 269 National Assembly seats next year and their current overall majority.

As the communists, who pulled out of government last year, have announced that their priority is now to bring down Mr Mitterrand because of a policy swing to the right, Socialists are unlikely to get more than 25 per cent support in Parliament even under new proportional representation voting.

The three main opposition leaders — Mr Jacques Chirac and Mr Raymond Barre — let their views be known through associates rather than replying directly to Mr Mitterrand.

Mr Giscard has been in favour of cohabitation until the presidential elections in 1988 but Mr Jean Francois-Poncet, his friend and former foreign affairs minister, said there was no way of separating home and foreign affairs. They were closely linked, he said, by "European agreements, currency and the economy in general." The chairman of Mr Giscard's UDF movement, Jean-Claude Gaudin, said that "if we win it will be our policies which will be applied in every area."

A spokesman for Mr Barre, who is against cohabitation, said that the President was "backing into a bunker" by attributing prerogatives to himself.

It became known yesterday that importers in the Rhineland-Palatinate, Chancellor Kohl's own state, knew as early as April that large amounts of the Austrian imports had been treated with

the chemical diethylene-glycol.

The state's wine ministry even asked the Federal Health Office in May to determine whether 0.5 grammes of the chemical per litre of wine were "acceptable." It was told that most of the hundreds of thousands of litres brought here by tankers and bottled in West Germany had already been withdrawn from trading.

It also emerged that similar early warnings were received in other states, but the information was not passed on to the Bonn Health Ministry or other central institutions.

While bureaucratic attitudes were given yesterday as the most likely answer to the delayed reaction, there is also some suspicion that importers of the extremely cheap wines did not want to have their business spoiled, and that the extent of the

US still rules out political killings

From Michael White in Washington

THE White House last night indignantly denied as "absolutely outrageous and utterly false" suggestions that it was contemplating lifting a nine-year-old ban on assassination as an instrument of official policy. But officials were encouraging the belief that the US response to the Beirut hijacking may be a "surgical" military strike against terrorist bases.

At least two independent news sources, including NBC News, claimed overnight that unidentified Administration sources had acknowledged that the lifting of the 1976 ban on assassination — imposed in the wake of CIA scandals — was "under serious review" as part of the policy options urgently being examined.

A more cautious account in the Washington Post spoke of military officials pinpointing potential targets, and of President Reagan's conviction that military force should be an element in the eventual response to the holding of 39 TWA hostages for 17 days and the murder of the navy diver Robert Stethem.

Officials now say that a consensus has been reached at the White House that "we're going to have to hit back at the terrorists" in what Vice-President Bush this week called "as surgical as possible a fashion without being an element in the overall response to the holding of 39 TWA hostages for 17 days and the murder of the navy diver Robert Stethem."

The confusion in Lebanon, and the ambiguous role of Syria, makes this a near impossibility, which might explain why some officials are willing to contemplate what NBC called "the use of military commando teams to carry out executions, instead of the CIA."

Although administration sources emphasise the importance of retaliation being "in keeping with American values," some observers have warned we must not repeat the bombing of the marine barracks in Beirut in 1983, after which a covert CIA exercise to train counter-terrorists in Lebanon was approved. The warning was reinforced by President Reagan after a freelance bombing killed 80 innocent people, and the killing of 241 marines remains unavenged.

Politically, the President is under intense pressure from his most ardent supporters to act as tough as he has been talking. Mr Norman Podhoretz, the neo-conservative pundit, has called him "a crippled hawk."

But as he warmed to his subject, it became obvious why his former backers find it difficult to take him seriously. "They attack me for my success with women, out

Pastora defiant as bases are lost

Advance of Sandinistas leaves Arde guerrillas without food or ammunition

From Tony Jenkins in Sarapiquí, Nicaragua

THE hand-painted sign read "Welcome to Free Nicaragua" — ironically the same greeting as the Sandinistas used. But this was the Sarapiquí base, headquarters for Commander Zero's Arde guerrillas who are fighting to overthrow the Sandinistas.

A two-hour boat trip through lush scenery had brought us to Sarapiquí. It stands on the banks of the muddy San Juan river which marks the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

A security guard took our passports to be checked by his chief, Julio the Moustache. The Nicaraguan flag hung limply from a tall flag pole while the guerrillas swayed lazily in hammocks drinking cola.

Yet the tranquility masked Arde's desperate position. Commander Zero (real name Eden Pastora) emerged from an urgent meeting with his High Command and exploded: "The CIA is making war on us. Here we are fighting an atrocious war, people are dying daily and no one knows about it. The CIA is blocking the information. The CIA war could lead us to make a political agreement with the government in Managua."

Arde had controlled the San Juan since Pastora first started fighting his former revolutionary colleagues in April 1983. But in the past six weeks the Sandinistas have recaptured more than 40 miles of the river and overrun five of Arde's eight bases. Sarapiquí itself will probably fall in the next few weeks.

On the Costa Rican side of the river we had found 27 young guerrillas, two of them with shrapnel wounds, who had deserted this morning. "We have no food, no medicine, no bullets," one had said. "What's the point in staying? The commander knows this, he sent us over to an Arde boat. The Costa Rican Civil Guards were ferrying them to refugee camps."

Nevertheless, Commander Zero is still defiant. "We may lose the battle of the Rio San Juan, but we will win the war. But at the same time he says he is prepared to offer the Sandinistas an unconditional ceasefire. "I could even fly to Managua to see what they have to offer." Yet he admits that if the Sandinistas refuse to negotiate, he will have no option but to declare a unilateral ceasefire.

The Commander does not understand why his fortunes are so low. He believes the Sandinistas and the Reagan Administration have reached a secret agreement and that rightwing millionaires in the US have been ordered not to fund him.

But as he warmed to his subject, it became obvious why his former backers find it difficult to take him seriously. "They attack me for my success with women, out



Commander Zero — Eden Pastora — at his base camp: "It is interesting that Christ ended on the cross and that they tried to assassinate me"

of jealousy because they are all queer and I can make love to their women."

Commander Zero reminisces about the days "before I broke with the Communists. Until then I was the bravest, the most patriotic, the most democratic and the most loyal."

"Always remembering the distance that separates us, let's remember they called Christ a witch and a madman. It is interesting that Christ ended on the cross and that they tried to assassinate me."

Eden Pastora became arguably the best known Sandinista fighter when he led a daring raid to seize the National Palace in August 1978, during the war to overthrow the dictator Somoza. He is convinced he retains popular support.

"Our strength is in the justice of our cause, it is in the troops of the Sandinista Popular Army and the militias, who are not Communists. It is in the people of Nicaragua who are truly revolutionary."

He is a man who has al-

ways enjoyed the romanticism attached to the guerrillas. He happily uses phrases such as "We have replaced money with mystique." When asked if he sees himself as the Che Guevara of the eighties, he roars with laughter, but he has no time for conventional politics. He dismisses the domestic opposition to the Sandinistas.

"How have they suffered? There is only one way and that is to risk your life."

His money problems would be resolved if he agreed to unite with the main CIA-backed counter-revolutionary army, the FDN. The FDN says that in the past Pastora has demanded to be made Commander-in-Chief of any unified military force, a demand which they have rejected.

Pastora himself claims that he has not been invited to join the FDN. He says that he would need guarantees. "It is a moral and ideological problem. We are truly Sandinista, truly revolutionary, truly democratic. This sort of talk has worried the conservative FDN in

the past, yet Pastora has not toned down his language. He quotes Marx and says: "I am not anti-Marxist."

We were sitting on the grass on the edge of a huge bomb crater left by a Sandinista aerial bombardment. Pastora, in his freshly laundered jungle greens, said: "They'll be back, but we are not desperate. Not even death is desperate for us and we will never surrender."

He took us to listen to a radio report from one of his field commanders. "Two probably killed this morning, comandante," the man said. "Good, good, let them advance. They are just getting bogged down and giving us more targets. Keep your morale high, Hermano, our cause is just."

As he led us to our boat the comandante coyly said: "The number of sons I have is a state secret. But I calculate roughly 22, here is one," and he put his arm around a young guerrilla.

"Tell the world about us," he said and turned to give instructions to one of his young field commanders.

Abortions legalised

From Jane Walker in Madrid

Abortion became legal in Spain yesterday after months of bitter legal and political wrangling.

The new legislation permits abortion for women who become pregnant following rape, when there is a physical or mental deformity or, in the opinion of two doctors, there is a grave danger to the mental or physical health of the mother.

The bill was introduced by the Socialist Government shortly after it came to office at the end of 1982 and was bitterly opposed throughout its entire passage.

After the bill was approved last year its passage was blocked by an appeal to the highest legislative court in a final attempt to thwart the measure the Opposition is now staging a campaign to persuade doctors to refuse to perform abortions.

A leading feminist lawyer Ms Cristina Alberdi, expressed satisfaction yesterday with the decision. She said: "We are very pleased because it really is as liberal as the laws in many other European countries."

Kohl promises wine inquiry

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

THE WEST GERMAN authorities are facing mounting criticism for their failure to warn the public against the consumption of Austrian wine doctored with an anti-freeze ingredient to enhance its sweetness and alcohol content.

As importers continued to cancel orders from Austria of the 17 wines in question, Chancellor Kohl yesterday promised his Austrian counterpart, Mr Fred Sinowatz, a thorough investigation into why it took the West German authorities more than three months to react to the scandal.

It became known yesterday that importers in the Rhineland-Palatinate, Chancellor Kohl's own state, knew as early as April that large amounts of the Austrian imports had been treated with

the chemical diethylene-glycol.

The state's wine ministry even asked the Federal Health Office in May to determine whether 0.5 grammes of the chemical per litre of wine were "acceptable." It was told that most of the hundreds of thousands of litres brought here by tankers and bottled in West Germany had already been withdrawn from trading.

It also emerged that similar early warnings were received in other states, but the information was not passed on to the Bonn Health Ministry or other central institutions.

While bureaucratic attitudes were given yesterday as the most likely answer to the delayed reaction, there is also some suspicion that importers of the extremely cheap wines did not want to have their business spoiled, and that the extent of the

scandal was not immediately realised.

In his telephone conversation with Dr Kohl yesterday, the Austrian Chancellor urged his German colleague, to help prevent a "blanket condemnation" of Austrian wines, adding that the "handful of culprits in Austria would be brought to justice. Some 30 exporting firms in Austria are being investigated."

The scandal coincides with charges of fraud and breach of wine standards brought against the honorary president of the West German Wine Growers Association, Mr Werner Tyrell, by the State Prosecutor in Mainz yesterday. He is suspected of having added sugar to nearly 80,000 litres of wine to improve its quality.

The authorities in the Rhineland-Palatinate are investigating a further 1,000 wine-growers and bottlers for the same offence.

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Brian Crowther on the son who came back from the dead

Hi Mum!

FOUR YEARS have passed, yet memory (which I curse at times) restores and recreates the events of that fateful day. In our quiet, solid terrace house, we prepared tea on a sunlit Saturday afternoon. "Shall we call him in?" someone asked, but it was a cold, cold day, and we did not. He was playing with friends. They were on their bikes. We had taken such extraordinary care over the years to protect our children...

For all that our terrace is quiet, some fifty yards away is one of the busiest roads in the city. New to the noise and bustle of traffic in a large conurbation after twenty years in the relative calm of the west of Scotland, we were making the necessary adjustments.

Outside the house, movement of people, agitated faces. Why did my wife, my daughter, and I rush out, join them, and run along the terrace to the main road? To this day I do not know. On the road, a small, crumpled body. As if in slow motion, we pushed through them, my wife and I. It was our youngest son, 13-year-old Neil. Dark red blood was pulsing from a wound at the top of his head. He was quivering, and moaning softly. A middle-aged man, very agitated (the council before revaluation, he says, cutting spending by 4 per cent, looking forward to a rate cut of £2 a week because of the government cutting rate support grant).

The provost says he loves the system of the Scottish boroughs, the way they provide safe, enterprising, supportive communities for their citizens. "We wanted to keep rates down because of these commercial retailers who fill a great part of a sound economy. But now, with revaluation and government action, the heart is being knocked out of the local community."

The great thing about being a member of a long established commercial community such as Forfar's is that it gives a sense of perspective, and a bit of humour. "You can also tell from the balance of the books who's been in government," says Michael Irons, "and we do far better under Labour. They do everything wrong, but business booms."

"We've had window tax, and rates, and regionalisation, and God knows what else," says Jack Dalgety, standing among the great bales of tarta, the musquash sporrans, and the ladies' apparel "and we've always managed somehow." But there are signs in Forfar, as in the other dour small boroughs like Forfar, that the struggle to retain a healthy balance from a bustling market town to a borough fearful

He was, of course, on a life support machine. The long vigils began. For two weeks we were together or separately at his bedside. We talked to him incessantly, held his hands, caressed him, played for him music he loved. "Bach, Vivaldi, Rodrigo, The Who. At home when we played the same music, we went in the hospital we fretted when temperatures or pressures on the dials all about his bed approached or exceeded certain limits."

After an interminable number of days — or so it seemed — his eyes opened. "Hi Mum," he said, and these words were the sweetest words my wife and I have ever heard. We had been warned that Neil might — if he survived — be blind, deaf, dumb, a vegetable, a hopeless cripple. We told ourselves that we were prepared to face any or all of these possibilities. We only wished that he might live.

Cruelly, a severe chest infection caused great anxiety after he had recovered consciousness. It was almost more than we could bear. To have him restored to life, then to face this mortal threat, was a hideous torment. A combination of factors saved his life: the skill of the surgeons, the devoted care of expert nursing staff, the loving care of his family and of close friends, and his own sturdy health and youthful resilience.

Eventually he came home — earlier than anticipated because we pressed for his release from hospital and convinced the authorities that we could care for him. Anyway, Neil wanted very much to come home. We still did not know what we had left of the bright and athletic young son whose future had been so promising until his terrible accident. For a whole year we devoted our lives to him. All else was relegated to the background.

Our son may not now go to university. He struggled to take some O levels at a college of further education last year and obtained a couple of good passes. He has taken a few more O levels this year, and if things work out he will think about trying for two A levels next year.

He is no longer the exceptionally bright and athletic adolescent he was. But he is no less intelligent, no less sensitive, and he has not lost his keen sense of humour, in spite of the loss of a few million brain cells.

Each morning as I go to collect my Guardian from the newsagent, I walk past the very road where his life spilled out on to the unyielding surface. As I compete against him at snooker and table tennis, or play football or cricket with his friends, I hear his voice, or listen with him to Bach, Vivaldi, Rodrigo or The Who, and see him gently smiling at me. I could weep with happiness. For my beloved young son, Neil, who almost died, is alive.

THE HEADLINES have died down. "Government in rates row" has been replaced by "Government in confidence crisis", and the media caravan has moved on from the tumult caused by this year's rates revaluation in Scotland. But the impact of the row in Scotland has not died away. The announcement by the Secretary of State for Scotland, George Younger, that £20 million worth of rate rebate was to be made available for those whose rateable value has gone up by more than three times their 1984/5 valuation has calmed some of the anger, but the long term question that has been raised still requires answers.

Much was made of the effect of the revaluation on the Government's electoral chances in Scotland. The natural constituents of this Government — the small traders and business people — would they desert? Would the Government's 21 seats in Scotland be decimated? After Brecon, anything seems possible.

But turn the question on its head — what will become of these natural allies of the Government, is their own future imperilled? — and you get nearer the present predicament of the Scottish boroughs where the small traders and business people are largely to be found.

Forfar, once upon a time the seat of Scottish monarchs and parliament, now a market town that still maintains an air of prosperous solidity, is a heartland of such people. It has 12,500 inhabitants, a Tory MP, a booming textile factory, some light industry, and hundreds of small businesses. It regularly saves more than most other Scottish towns, its football team was recently promoted to the First Division, and competition seems to have been life since there are few multiple stores here, only a handful of national chains, the rest being businesses that in many cases have been handed on in the

'You can tell from the balance of the books who's been in government,' says Michael Irons, 'and we do far better under Labour. Everything they do's wrong but business booms.'

After the revolt of the Brecon voters, Lindsay Mackie reports from Forfar on the desertion of more of the Government's natural supporters — the shopkeepers.

family since the nineteenth century. Walk along Castle Street, take a stroll up East High Street, West High Street, and there is a distinctive air about the place. Here are shops, the names on whose fascias correspond to the people working behind the counter.

There is Dalgety the kilt maker, Jarvis the draper and outfitter, Saddler the baker, Caird the chemist, Colin Smith the electrician, Irons the ironmonger and agricultural purveyor, Laura Small the confectioner and cake maker, Main the chemist and photographic supplier, Neil Robertson the printer and stationer, Guild the shoe-shop, and Thompson electrical supplier. Even the stiff language of the 1933 town plan, produced by the Angus district council, indicates an unusual stability in Forfar's way of life over the past 100 years when it points out that "with the exception of some replacement shop fronts at

ground floor level, there has been comparatively little change to properties along the main streets."

But the revaluation has created a kind of communal depression in Forfar. Michael Irons, joint owner with his brother of the ironmongers' shop built by their grandfather in 1840 in the centre of the town, says: "The revaluation was a disaster, and even with a rebate we'll be paying 50 per cent more (from £4,500 to £6,800) but we've no option but to stagger on. What else can we do? We have no option, but we still can't get over it."

Charles Jarvis, secretary of the shopkeepers' association and in charge of Jarvis Bros, drapers and outfitters, founded by his grandfather in 1833, says the same. Six businesses have shut down in Forfar's retail trade in the last six months, there are a lot of empty properties, the people coming into them are attracted into the new centres, based outside the town.

for the most part. "But a lot of retail businesses are run not for financial profit, but because it's what people are used to, it's what they like doing, and it's what their families did before them."

These are not ruthless financial equations. The businesses now clobbered, like Jarvis Bros with a 60 per cent increase in rates, even with the Younger rebate, manage to employ quite a lot of people. Jarvis has 11 staff, Irons has 12, including an apprentice taken on last year, Jack Dalgety, in the 123-year-old firm he runs with his brother Alastair, has six.

"In an area like this there's a finite amount of money," Jack Dalgety says. "We're not getting more for our massive increases in rates, no more services, it's as if we're being asked just to pay to work in the buildings where our jobs are."

Michael Small, maker of cakes, tiffins, biscuits, and fancy, employer of three travelling salesmen and two

relatives in his tiny Castle Street shop, expresses something of the powerlessness of the small retailer bombarded with directives from the layers of Scottish local government, the district and the region, never mind the rates assessor. "You don't seem to have peace to be the same from one year to the next." Some years ago Forfar was covered in a maze of yellow lines, and the great plume of the shopkeepers' ever since has been that business has nosedived.

But to whom do they complain? The region, in charge of traffic, allows Forfar one councillor. "Before regionalisation in 1973, you had the town council and all they were interested in was Forfar. Now the regional council treats the little boroughs the same as Dundee, the big city," says Alan Ducat, the local editor of the Forfar Herald. Oddly, for one so young (26), he puts Forfar's decline from a bustling market town to a borough fearful

Genius not without profit in his adopted country

SCUNTHORPE POLICE, it was reported, are looking for a prankster who filled the town hall's answering machine with 24 hours of Handel's Messiah. Some questions remain unanswered. Why Scunthorpe? Why the town hall? And most important of all, why Messiah?

Leaving aside "Arnoldian" speculation about the need to bring sweetness and light to the burgesses of Scunthorpe, we turn to Handel's masterpiece. And the simple fact is that if you are going to clog up the town hall tapes with a great choral masterpiece, it has to be Messiah. For Messiah stands alone, universally known and fairly universally loved; it crosses rigid musical demarcation lines and fascinates both the ardent but not particularly talented amateur and the most dedicated scholar of the da capo and the double dot.

And why, by the way, do the Proms open on Friday, in Handel's tercentenary year, with the Mozart version sung in German when we have only lately been sold the joys of authenticity? What next — Ebenezer Prout?

If they had been answering machines in Scunthorpe 100 years ago, Mendelssohn might have stood a chance with Elijah. But never Bach. The Passions, the too mass are too complex; the serious, too complex; the English, like their masterpieces straight; complexity is fine but it must know its place.

by accident. It was primarily written for edification, and edification, however excellent a thing in itself, has nothing to do with art, though the names on whose fascias correspond to the people working behind the counter.

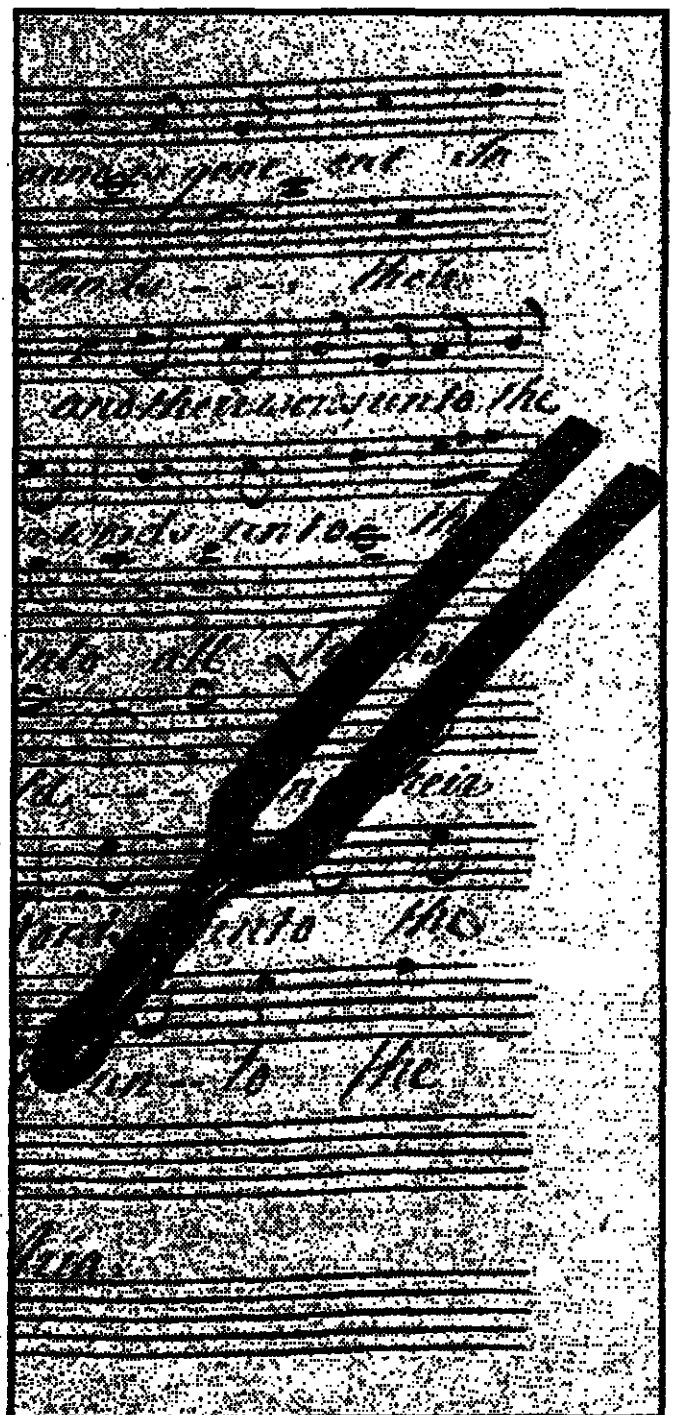
That last sentence is suspect, but Streetfield was on the right lines. The Victorians just before him spent long hours pondering the popularity of Messiah, and asking themselves (since they were Victorians) whether it was morally right to enjoy it so much.

Joseph Bennett, writing in a Handel feature in the Musical Times in 1893, thought he had the answer: "We never able to get on square and fair terms with the secret of art which is great and noble and also popular. The condition is almost paradoxical and extremely difficult of clear explanation."

"But it may be useful to consider that Handel's art was never in excess of his purpose. Handel, with unerring tact, he went to his object by the most direct route and in the simplest manner. There is no mistaking him. He never leads us into a fog of doubt, and the road through any one of his oratorios is a course as straight and luminous as the wayfarer's lamp, though a fool cannot err therein. The English mind appreciates art which is readily intelligible and obviously sincere."

Obviously sincere and intellectually satisfying. Stainer's Crucifixion is intelligible and sincere, but falls far short of being a masterpiece. It's third division stuff, whereas Messiah is at the top of the league and no one can patronise you for liking it. Some critics have sought to explain its popularity in terms of sociology or politics or religion (or all three). Reginald Nettell called it "that monument to the Victorian concept of evangelical Christianity and the progress brought by the industrial revolution" (North Staffordshire Music, 1977) and William Mellers argues that during the 1850s Messiah performances were "elevated to a rite and became a kind of national substitute for religious experience" (He's right: one Crystal Palace performance was said to have "sounded as if a nation were at prayers").

Fair comment; but both Nettell and Mellers overlook the simple fact that people love and have loved Messiah because the tunes are so good and because they are touched by it in ways that reason cannot always fully comprehend. And to reject Messiah because you don't approve of religion, imperialism, or Victorian capitalism is to cut off your nose to spite your face. Messiah, first performed in Dublin in 1741, took time to catch on but once established, its popularity never waned. Handel himself was able to bank on its appeal to raise funds for the Foundling Hospital and the first rural performance was staged in 1750 to benefit a charity. The visionary William Hanbury, vicar of Church Langton in Leicestershire, wanted



money for a school, a teacher, and the relief of poverty in his parish. But he also had a dream of a new collegiate foundation with a huge cathedral, bigger than York, at its heart.

Hanbury's principal fund-raising scheme was a garden centre (he planted large areas of trees and sold fine specimens to the local gentry) but thought a country performance of Messiah, then doing the rounds of the great festivals and cathedral cities, could provide a useful boost to funds.

He hired Dr William Hayes, professor of music at Oxford, to direct a performance in the parish church at Church Langton, had a new organ specially constructed (the original keyboard, now very battered, remains in the nave), and the event took place on September 27, 1750, the day following the vicar's birthday. Hanbury described the traffic jam created by concert goers and recalled the "performance, which popular rumour said Handel had attended even though he had been dead for five months."

"The music, on so solemn a subject, by so good a band, was most affecting, and to see the effect it had on different persons was astonishingly moving and strange. An eye without tears I believe could hardly be found in the whole church, and everyone endeavoured to conceal the emotions of his heart: drooping heads, to render the tears unnoticed, became for a while almost general, till by now and then looking about, and finding others affected in the like manner, no concealment in a little time was made. Tears then with unconcern were seen trickling down the

faces of many; and then indeed it was extremely moving to see the pity, compassion, and tears which the possessed the greatest part present."

"As soon as the oratorio ended, and the company was out of the church, the doors were set wide open, and part of it performed over again for the entertainment of the common people; and it was really curious to see what a hurry they were in to get in, and what strong there was immediately to get out again; for they crushed one another to an amazing degree. It pleased them however and thus ended the day's performance in the church."

And so the "common people" acquired a taste for Messiah and they have not wavered of it yet. What finally brought Messiah to the masses was cheap music. By 1850, the price of Vincent Novello's pocket edition was a mere 1s 4d, which explains why so many amateurs could join in those mammoth performances at Crystal Palace in 1859 where there were 2,765 singers in the chorus, with an orchestra of 400. When they performed Messiah there in 1857 with slightly smaller forces, they said you could hear the Hallelujah Chorus half a mile from Norwood.

Mammoth performances were rare. But who could begrudge those earnest chorists their moments of glory and who today could resist the wish to have been in Crystal Palace to listen or take part?

Messiah remains top of the league. "I can tell you that without looking," said the man from the hire library at Novello and Co. "We hire out scores in vast quantities

every year, with particular peaks at Christmas and Easter. Manchester's Henry Wood said the best of the 1,380 copies of the vocal score and every one is out on loan at Christmas; book early to avoid disappointment."

Local choral societies and their audiences still love it. "We always get a good audience for Messiah," said Barbara Johnson, secretary of the Galtley Choral Society in the Manchester suburbs. "If we do anything obscure, the takings suffer. A lot of people say it's not Christmas until you've done Messiah."

Amen to that! I do a scratch Messiah every year, using one of Manchester's 1,380 copies. About 180 of us turn up to listen to the soloists and join in the choruses. The tenors are usually thin on the ground and the basses are normally asked politely to keep up with everyone else.

I choose my seat with care. Messiah has come to me imperfectly by osmosis and all those little black notes ("And he shall purify hy-hy-hy") are intimidating and I need a strong lead. Once I sit next to a bass singing from an early solo edition and that was fine. But my anxieties are usually groundless. A mighty squad behind me rips into And the glory of the Lord, and we're off.

By the Hallelujah Chorus (and sorry, sir, it was my wife who didn't know she was supposed to stand up) the big singing is raising the hairs on the back of my neck and what bass can resist the mighty lead of "Blessing and honour, glory and power" be unto him! In Worth's is the Lamb?

By the great Amen, my soul is shredded. Thanks Mr Handel, and happy birthday.

WEEK-END ARTS

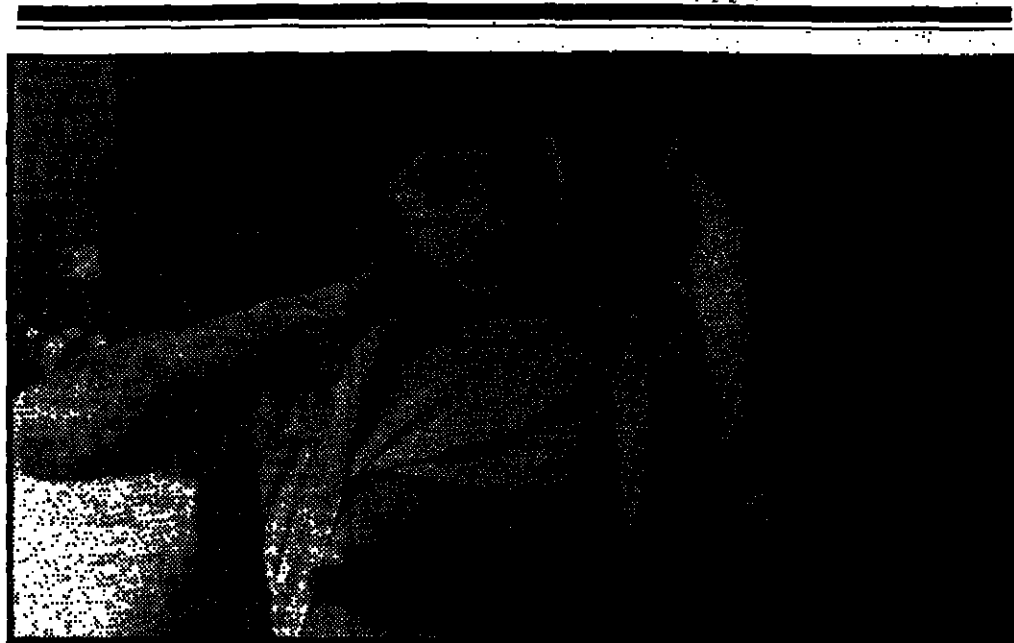
Jean-Luc's new testament

"IF THERE'S one thing that writing a book on Godard convinced me of, it's that one should avoid becoming Godard's producer at all costs." Thus I joked to Tony Kirkhope of the Other Cinema as we flew out to Geneva in the spring of last year to fix up the final details of a package whereby Tony was to produce a television programme that Godard was to make for Channel 4.

The joke had turned a little sour as some six months later I sat in Paris in the pouring rain of a winter morning while Godard, in despair over the progress of the movie *Detective*, simply refused to talk about a detailed schedule for the programme which was already three months overdue.

But dealing with Godard is both difficult and easy — difficult in that he is a perfectionist who constantly demands enough time to complete something to his entire satisfaction (there was yet more potential for cardiac arrest when Tony arrived in Geneva this March to be told that Godard was so dissatisfied with the finished programme that he was going to start again from scratch); easy in that he will always fulfil his commitments in his own time. It is this insistence on ignoring the frenetic rhythms of cinema and television where money and hype ceaselessly destroy time that makes Godard's work both unique and important.

When Godard broke with the conventional cinema in 1968 it was ostensibly a political act, but the real politics of the image had nothing to do with the sectarian Maoism which provided an explicit commentary on this decision. Godard was determined to break with the logic of money and contracts which imposed fixed schedules of production and re-investigate the possibilities offered by the combination



A scene from *Slow Motion*... Is this to be a target of IBA censorship?

As Channel 4 begin a major retrospective of the work of Jean-Luc Godard, Colin MacCabe assesses the position of this controversial film-maker in cinema history

of sound and image. Above all, for Godard, it was a question of gaining control of production, of slowing down the conventional processes so that they could be understood and transformed.

If it was revolutionary politics and the aggressive egalitarianism of the '68 era which signalled the break with conventional aesthetics and established hierarchies, it was the possibilities offered by the new video technology which allowed Godard genuine control of the production and editing of images. Throughout the seventies he assembled, together with Anne-Marie Mieville, the hardware which

enabled them to become an almost autonomous production house. The films and television programmes they produced throughout the seventies are a remarkable investigation of the violent divorce between work and home, labour and love, which is so essential to advanced capitalist societies and which they were attempting to overcome in their own practice.

From the base they had built together, Godard felt capable of re-entering the conventional production structures at the beginning of the eighties. Since then he has produced a stream of extraordinary and beautiful

movies, one of the most recent of which, *Hail Mary*, will inaugurate London's new Metro cinema in September.

By that time viewers of Channel 4 will have had an opportunity to consider the full range of Godard's experiments in a season of his post-68 work which starts on Monday. At least, one must hope that the full range is available for there is talk that the IBA are thinking of censoring both *Numero Deux* and *Slow Motion* because of their explicit sexual content.

Such censorship would mark a triumph of low-brow philistinism. The films are not remotely titillating or

pornographic and their ferocious investigation and indictment of much contemporary sexuality makes them essential contributions to contemporary culture. One can only hope that the IBA recognise the aesthetic and political importance of Godard's work and allow the series to go ahead in its entirety.

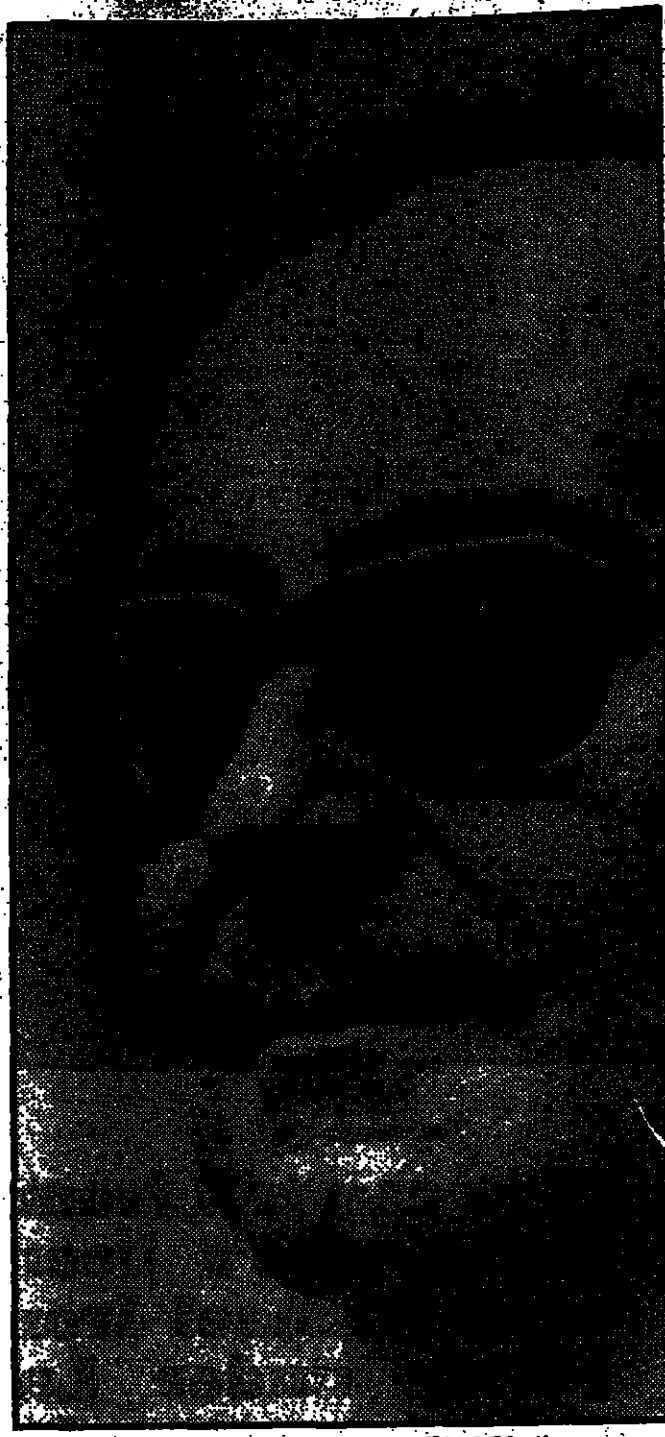
One of the high points is sure to be the transmission of *Soft and Hard*, the video that took so long to deliver. Shot in and around the village of Rolle in Switzerland, where Godard and Mieville live, the programme focuses on the relation of images to conceptions of home, of nature, of art.

The galvanic images of *Hail Mary*, seen ever more nostalgically as irretrievably lost, and the bland images of daily television, seen as ever more omnipresent, are contrasted with images of Godard and Mieville in their apartment.

The questions they pose are ones that affect us all. How is one to understand the interchanges between image and reality which is so constant a process within our society? How do the images of films we remember or the images of television broadcast into our living rooms affect our images of ourselves?

These abstract questions are posed in relation to concrete experience. How is Godard to understand the problems he had in making *Detective* or *Anne-Marie* to reflect on her short film *The Book of Mary*? As the couple discuss and demonstrate these problems, one has the feeling that they, at least, have gone some way towards solving the distinction between industrial production and domestic labour — here, for the first time, is "home television."

Colin MacCabe is director of production at the British Film Institute.



Hail Jean-Luc... Picture by Frank Martin

Pick of next week's TV

Monday

Human Jigsaw (Times 11.30, Central 10.35, other regions vary). Return of the pop anthropology series finds presenter Ray Gosling on exercises with the T.A. dodging a paint pellet battle in a battle between pub-teams and keeping a safe distance as two villages engage in a kind of free-form jigsaw. He repeatedly poses the question: do we games act as a release for aggression or develop it? — but fails to find an answer.

End Of Empire (C4, 9.05). Final part of the series, at its best, as here, when we uncover new evidence in familiar stories. The subject is Rhodesia — begins with UDI, precipitated by Wilson's "insane" (Denis Healey's word) declaration that a British military invasion was out of the question, and continues with the Lancaster House talks 15 years later, the subsequent election and the British fear of a white coup.

Tuesday

Radio Pictures (BBC2, 9.35). Witty play, seeking with images and text in the case world of radio drama where the old stages bring their knitting, the sound effects man beets around in high heels, and the playwright flaps about like an expectant father. Starry cast includes Desmond Landon as a Peeping Tom philologist in the play within a play ("he knows all the vocabulary but he doesn't have the hang of it"), and a feisty old girl once the microphone's turned off. As in last week's *Glamour* Night, the author — in this case Stewart Parker — is in a way satirising himself. Enjoyable.

Howard Jones — at Manchester Apollo BBC2, 7.01. If you don't know Jones in the Live Aid line-up, you can catch up with his brand of optimistic, synthesiser pop in this rather more extended showcase.

Wednesday

Sperm Bank Baby (BBC1, 8.30). After a long, unmarriageable and desperate for a child, tells reporter Desmond Wilcox why, at last, she turned to a sperm bank which deals only in "genius" fathers. She rather skirts the issue of the "elitist master race" feeling of it, but can't be faulted for frankness in any other respect. The father, Donor 28, seen from the knees down in a television interview, is rather a disappointment however: "It's not very exciting work," he says.

Mozart's Unfinished (C4, 8.30). Gritty jolly documentary showing how the composer Philip Wilby completed one of Mozart's hundred or so unfinished works. "Witnesses" actors playing Mozart and other musicians, are summoned — a phony device — and the Amadeus Trio and the Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square, perform.

The Red And The Black (C4, 7.30). Lively studio debate about the novel, or, otherwise, for black sections in the Labour Party — an issue, on this showing, which seems to divide potential members of such sections as much as it does the rest of the Left.

Thursday

Maybe Baby (BBC 2, 9.15). Jack Klaff, so persuasive in his recent one-man play, *Nagging Doubts*, portraying his South African childhood, brandishes his liberal conscience and a "new man" credentials in this two-hander about a couple's medical advice over whether to have a child. Occasional insights don't dispel the general tactlessness.

From The Face Of The Earth (C4, 8.00). Hepatitis B, a disease endemic in parts of the Third World and an ever-present threat to homosexual communities 10 years ago, was like some horrible dress rehearsal for AIDS. June Goodfield, the series' medical adviser, discovers how a vaccine was developed and given a successful clinical trial thanks to the co-operation of thousands of gays in New York's Greenwich Village.

Friday

Quickly Up The Thames (BBC1, 10.15). Not quite the Hindu Kush but, seen through the eyes of author and travelling man Eric Newby, the Thames has its fascination. He describes his remarkable career which began as an apprentice on one of the last of the great sailing ships.

First Night Of The Proms (BBC1, 10.15). Sir John Pritchard and the BBC Symphony Orchestra celebrate the 300th anniversary of Handel's birth with a performance of the Messiah — in the Mozart arrangement.

Helen Oldfield

Miller's tale of China

Hugh Hebert on how Peking took to Willy Loman

DURING the years of the Red Guard, we're told, only eight plays were officially allowed on the Chinese stage, and I bet they were all depressing. They may also have been purging, and naturally any play that is more purging than depressing counts as tragedy, while plays that depress more than they purge count mostly as pains in the neck.

Whether they knew which they were getting or not, in 1983 the Peking People's Art Theatre — no longer confined to the eight approved texts — invited Arthur Miller to direct a production of his *Death of a Salesman*, translated by Ying Ruocheng, who also played the main role. Later, Miller wrote a book about it, and the *Salesman* goes to China (BBC4) was the omnibus edition of his experiences, as revealing of the state of the theatre

there in the wake of the Cultural Revolution as it was of the play.

Now let me give it to you straight, or as Ying translates the phrase, "Let me talk to you open door see mountain" — the Chinese having invented the comma long after they thought of gunpowder. Death of a Salesman has always tended to purge me less than it depresses me, mainly because most of what happens to Willy Loman could possibly happen to any man in the audience, and because the American dream and the American selling ethic has always meant less on this side of the Atlantic.

The merit of this documentary was that — with clips of three different *Salesmen*, Lee J. Cobb, Dustin Hoffman, Ying himself — and with Miller providing a gloss, it seemed a richer play.

But it was the Chinese company

that made the exercise worthwhile. With their accounts of the Red Guard years, when they were, as Ying said, treated like criminals, made to till the fields and be re-educated by the theatre cleaners, they took to a wholly alien western theatrical tradition, they revealed a rabid-like resilience.

The programme's only serious fault was that it had none of the solid structure of Miller's drama. It felt like one of those questions packed with foam chips, full but amorphous. I don't know whether the producer/narrator Alan Yentob, or his director Jill Evans, should take the rap for that. Or, as Ying translates the phrase, I don't know who will take that charred cigarette pot on their back.

Commercial Breaks (BBC4)

returned with a programme updating two earlier eavesdropping sessions on Maxwell and the Mirror he bought just a year ago. The earlier shows, extensively re-edited last night, had some pretty lucky breaks of their own, or else some skilled replays: the moment when Clive Thornton was told that Maxwell had bid \$80 million, the meeting when Maxwell's boys realised the Sun had stolen their million pound tender.

In the year since, Cap'n Bob has spent \$10 million on publicity, mainly for Cap'n Bob: Maxwell meeting the president of, wait for it, Bulgaria. Maxwell receiving his share from the Polachow of New York. Maxwell's front page, splash page, rescuing Sinclair. This was the best of the three programmes, and somehow, I don't think there will be a fourth.

DUCHESS THEATRE

Rosalind Carne

A State of Affairs

APART from a certain glib facility in the dialogue and a valiant effort from the cast, I can find little to recommend in this programme of four purportedly humorous plays by Graham Swannell. Peter James is the director and the production is a transfer from the Lyric at Hammersmith, which usually has better taste. Marriage and mistresses may present fertile ground for laughter but surely we can expect more than a conception of cliché and thinly veiled misogyny dressed up in the trappings of contemporary life-styles?

Playlet, the first, lauds the power of thigh boots and lace black underwear to resurrect a failing sexual life. Accurate effort, but it is hardly a novel observation, and is it, of itself, funny? No doubt we are meant to feel praiseworthy sympathy for Gary Bond as the oppressed husband, forced to perform every night when once a month would be quite enough. Admittedly, he gives a credible stab at this thankless role, and he has certainly met his match in Nicola McAuliffe's vain and predatory Caroline.

Man as victim reappears in the second piece when a

poor philanderer is confronted by the horrifying revelation that his mistress has fallen in love with him. Amanda Boxer rises beautifully to the challenge of the fury of a woman scorned, and Nicola McAuliffe returns in different guise with just the right note of fortitude and hesitation as the dowdy partner from whom the man escaped temporarily for a bit of excitement.

Part two deals respectively with the erring husband turned solitary drinker and the (male) cultural deprivations of childrearing. Neither offers more than a pessimistic shrug in its attempt to challenge stereotypes. There is a certain cruel acuity in spotting the niceties of British social stratification and their relation to sexual behaviour but not enough to rescue what is ultimately a pretty depressing experience, though a few men who feel their historical supremacy threatened by the army of modern viragos might find it a source of comfort.

BIRMINGHAM

Gerald Lamer

CBSO/Edwards

THE PROM routine requires both predictable programmes and predictable conductors, nothing and nobody likely to obstruct the



MARITAL ARTS... Gary Bond and Nicola McAuliffe in *A State of Affairs*. Picture by Douglas Jeffery

efficient conversion of minimum rehearsal into maximum returns. The crowd is once again provided by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, which entrusted itself in the middle of the last week of its Prom season to a conductor with little experience and no popular reputation.

Actually, Sir Ian Edwards has done one or two out-of-town concerts with the CBSO and she did win the conductors' competition in Leeds last year. So they could certainly trust her. She, for her part, had to prove that there is

more to her ability than just that, which is one reason why she applied herself with such determination to Beethoven's Eighth Symphony in the second half of the concert. It was a refreshingly vital performance, vulnerable to the usual caveats, but structurally well organised.

Structure seems to have a high priority in Miss Edwards's conducting. Certainly, the overall shaping was the most impressive aspect of her interpretation of the Fingal's Cave Overture. Given less dramatic pieces like Grieg's Two Elegiac Mel-

odies, she is less interesting, particularly when she relaxes into those vague looping gestures which even out the metrical details.

ST PAUL'S

Hugo Cole

Berlioz

The big festival concert at St Paul's are grand public events. The music often suffers, but they can still provide a unique, if bewildering, sound experience. The cheerful Foulenc organ concerto with the solo part played by John Birch was reduced to an almost indecipherable jumble of smudged sounds dominated by tinny trumpet and basses as heard from the south transept. One could sometimes read musical sense into this strange medley, but with no more certainty than a psychologist interpreting his Rorschach blot.

Wagner's *Lohengrin* (the opening prelude) was much more at home under the great dome, with its slow changes of harmony and colour and one long-spread swell and fade. But the real justification for the occasion came with Berlioz's *Trois* conducted by Charles Groves in his most majestic manner, with London Philharmonic and London Symphony Chorus, the Philharmonia Orchestra, 300 voices in the children's choir, with Ian Caley as soloist. This was an impressive performance even though the

antiphonal effects devised for organ and orchestra at opposite ends of a great church were necessarily lost. The music allows for inevitable blurring of detail, and also allows a huge choir to assert its own character and identity. There are tunes both solemn and lyrical, no more counterpoint than the ear can cope with, and characteristic harmonic surprises often saved for final cadences. This military Te Deum even ends with a march: slow but far from lugubrious, with some of the most interesting music in the whole work.

ST JOHN'S

Edward Greenfield

Peterborough Orchestra

IN THE language of a Civil Service handout, the Peterborough String Orchestra may talk about "playing an important role in regional music provision," but in the 18 months since this talented band of 12 young professional players was formed it has achieved that and more.

Its latest London concert at St John's, Smith Square, demonstrated every item of a delightfully varied programme that its work is not just about formality and civic or regional duty but the real emotional stuff of music-making.

Taking a leaf out of the book of the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, the players of the Peterborough String Orchestra give their performances standing (except for the cellos), and that may in part account for their alertness whether in Mozart, Elgar, Shostakovich, or a rare concerto for strings by the Polish woman composer, Grazyna Baciewicz.

If Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* at the start was brisk, fresh and positive, plain in its classical manners rather than subtly shaped, it led to subtly warm performances of the more overtly emotional pieces which followed. The scherzo, Paul Manley, with minimum fuss, consistently led his band of a dozen through the subtleties of expressive rubato with the sort of responsive precision you expect from a string quartet.

That was so whether in the gently infected phrases of Elgar's *Serenade* for Strings and Chorus, *de matin et de nuit*, or in the darker, violently energetic rhythms of the fast movements in the Beethoven or the Shostakovich Chamber Symphony based on the Eighth String Quartet.

Radio highlights

Today: Live Aid for Africa (Radio 1, 12 noon to 6 am). Simultaneous broadcast with BBC-TV. Quote: Unquote: "The series of what is now a Golden Oldie, Virgin Territory (Radio 4, 8.30 pm). Play about the campaigning journalist W. T. Stead's fight against child prostitution.

Tomorrow: Touched (Radio 4, 2.30 pm). Repeat of Stephen Lowe's Monday play about the dreams and realities of three sisters in the last weeks of the second world war — confusing voices, but a moving evocation of the fear and emotions of the times. In the Psychiatrist's Chair (Radio 4, 7.30 pm). Dr Anthony Clare talks to R. D. Laing, shrink to shrink.

Monday: Behaviors (Radio 4, 8.15 pm). Martyn Wade's black comedy about a couple's

dreams, and what might be buried in a suburban back garden.

Tuesday: Phone-in on the NHS (Radio 4, 9.5 am). With Health Minister Kenneth Clarke in the hot seat. Wildlife (Radio 4, 11.33 am). Derek Jones chairs a debate about bird shooting.

Wednesday: Crossroads (Radio 4, 1.30 pm). A new Rhys Adrian play about an elderly show-biz couple, played by Brenda Bruce and Peter Sallis.

Thursday: Crossing the Frontier (Radio 4, 3 pm). Peter Timmiswood's comedy about cruise life and shipboard romance.

Friday: A Year in the Life of the Albert Hall (Radio 4, 11 am). The Proms start tonight, and Nigel Farrell has listened to the many and diverse events here over the last year.

Val Arnold-Forster

WHERE IS PARSIFAL?

starring
TONY CURTIS • CASSANDRA DOMENICA
ERIK ESTRADA • PETER LAWFORD
RON MOODY • DONALD PLEASENCE
and ORSON WELLES
A TERENCE YOUNG PRODUCTION

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER TERENCE YOUNG PRODUCED BY DANIEL CARLINO SCREENPLAY BY BERTA DOMINGUEZ MUSIC BY HERBERT HOEPIG AND NANN JULIAN DIRECTED BY HEINRICH HILMAN

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هكذا من الاله

WEEK-END PEOPLE



Criminal fraternity's don

THE bulge near Max Byrd's armpit was unmistakable. He was carrying "it's a wallet," he said, opening his jacket to expose a white shoulder holster. Where the butt should have been was a zip. "I have had the most amazing respect from shopkeepers," he remarked innocently. Mae West made a more loaded remark about a holster, but this is a family newspaper.

Byrd is neither fish nor fowl — an American academic at the University of California specialising in 18th century literature who, many critics believe, will inherit Raymond Chandler's mantle for the private eye series he has embarked upon. His third Mike Haller thriller, *Finders Weepers*, is published by Allison & Busby, \$2.95.

"In my first book, *California Thriller*, I wanted Haller to be the grandson of Philip Marlowe," he says. "I was

frankly trying to imitate and update what Chandler had done."

Haller is a Bostonian private eye operating in the sleazy Tenderloin district of San Francisco. Byrd admits his hero's name might have been a mistake. He was not well acquainted with Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer stories, and had myopically poached the moniker of the English scholar William Haller from Boston.

Anglophilia and literature are Byrd's unlikely links with Chandler. The latter was imbued with a classical education at Dulwich College and always regarded himself as an Englishman. His stories were a marriage of classical precision and street slang.

Likewise, Byrd spent a year after graduating from Harvard as a research student at King's College, Cambridge, and is as happy as a cop in muck wandering around London, the subject of his study of how literary figures responded to the city. His most recent academic work was a critical study of Laurence Sterne's novel *Tristram Shandy*.

It is not surprising that the hard-bitten Haller has a stylish line of chat. "You're always saying that Freud was the first great detective," says his girlfriend. "He made it easy for himself," Haller replies. "He just decided everybody was guilty."

Byrd went gunshoe four years ago after attending a conference for aspiring writers in Squaw Valley. A paperback editor agreed to read his manuscript of *California Thriller* and signed him up a week later. Now he returns as an occasional teacher.

What is his colleagues' reaction to this literary slumming? "I think the most tactful word is wary," he said. "They probably think I have made pots of money, which is not true."

"It means that I hang around with a more interesting class of person. I go to

THE GUARDIAN 1960

JULY 13: The United States vigorously protested to the Soviet Union last night over the "unwarranted shooting down" of an American reconnaissance aircraft on July 14. It said the aircraft was never within 30 miles of Soviet land territory.

In a note delivered to the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow, the United States said it was evident that the Soviet Air Force aeroplanes "wantonly attacked" the American RB-47 aircraft over international waters.

MR MACMILLAN told the Commons yesterday that he is going to consult with President Eisenhower on any modification or improvement of the agreement about the use of American air bases in Britain.

This promise was welcomed by the crowded Chamber, meeting in the chilling shadow of the Arctic incident, but it was clear that the House or the public will in future be any less in the dark than hitherto. Nor, indeed, did the Prime Minister even say whether the British Government has been consulted about the flights.

JULY 14: Elisabethville, July 13. The Premier of Katanga Province, M. Moise Tshombe, declared today that there was no question of his retracting the declaration of independence from the rest of the Congo which he made on Monday.

He agreed there was some doubt about the legality of the declaration, but said it had been his duty to do it to save lives in Katanga and prevent communism from taking over. There was no question of obeying today's order by the head of the Central Government, M. Lumumba, that Belgian troops should return to the Kamina military base.

JULY 15: Alistair Cooke, Los Angeles, July 14. At ten minutes to eleven last night from a hideout in Beverly Hills, Senator John Kennedy saw the white flag go up over the last Democratic outpost two years and several precisely calculated months, weeks, days, and hours after he began to tunnel through the party's stronghold in the 50 states and their inland territories and possessions.

It was just before 2 am of the Fourteenth of July along the Atlantic seaboard, so it is the literal truth to say that the Democratic nomination fell to him on Bastille Day, after a campaign harassed by the white ghosts of Napoleon, Hitler and Montgomery and by the actual presence alongside a television set of vice-president Nixon, who sat up in Washington taking notes and learning a thing or two about the dawn of Labour Day, when he will take the field against a strategist as cool and ruthless as himself.

It will be a famous war, and the expectations here, among war correspondents who covered the 1952 election campaign in California, and the Kennedy forays everywhere is that the battle-grounds will be drenched with ice water.

JULY 16: In an impassioned speech the Prime Minister of the Congo, M. Lumumba, told deputies yesterday that he had ordered all Belgian troops to leave the country within 12 hours. If United Nations troops co-operated with the Belgians they too must leave.

JULY 18: Elisabethville, July 17. After some strong fighting, M. Moise Tshombe of Katanga ended a press conference here today by showing the design of a new independent Katanga flag — a gesture which is part of the Government's efforts to achieve a fait accompli.

JULY 19: A threat by M. Patrice Lumumba, the Prime Minister of Congo, to call in Soviet forces to help the United Nations made the Belgians withdraw by today was rejected yesterday by Dr. Ralph Bunche, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, according to usually reliable sources in Leopoldville. He is said to have told the Congolese Deputy Premier, M. Antoine Gizenga, that the United Nations was "not in the habit of accepting ultimatums."

Later the Congolese Senate unanimously passed a resolution "rejecting energetically any eventual intervention by the Soviet Union in Congolese internal affairs."

DR HASTINGS BANDA, president of the Malawi Congress Party, said yesterday on his arrival in London for the Nyasaland constitutional conference which opens on July 25, that an independent Nyasaland could not repeat the Congo troubles because nobody there could contest his leadership.

"What I say goes," he said. "I am the boss." He could frighten the people by a threat to resign, M. Lumumba, he thought, was "a victim of circumstances" created by the Belgian policy of political repression in favour of economic liberalism.

Dunts in the dumps

"OUR determination to stop this Dounreay project is absolute. The fishermen are convinced they can take on the Government and win."

Mrs Frances McKie is a member of The Dunters, an Orkney environmental group named after a duck. In local dialect "dunt" means to push, and her bold words might seem foolhardy had not the Orkneys brought irrefutable force to bear on a 1977 proposal to mine uranium in the islands. They won.

Now they face a government-approved plan to transform Dounreay on the Scottish coast, which has been a centre of nuclear research and safety for the past 30 years, into a reprocessing plant.

"We believe that Windscale has limited life and that Dounreay has been picked as a possible new Windscale, a centre for European reprocessing, storage and dumping. It would close a cycle which commits the entire EEC to a plutonium economy blocking out laser and solar alternatives. For the first step to be the subject of a local inquiry is just crazy."

Mrs McKie (33) is married to a marine pilot who works for the oil industry on Flotta, one of the 100-island Orkney group, 30 miles from the mainland.

The islanders are particularly peeved because two years ago they drew up an investment programme to develop a special food industry based on their reputation for producing fine seafood, beef, cheese and whisky. As a precaution they conducted a local survey of radiation levels.

"We served warning that the community wouldn't tolerate any additions. The survey showed up deposits from Dounreay which made us think they have not been telling the truth about their safety record. Within a week of taking samples, Dounreay made a press statement that they had started to find radioactive material on Thurso and Dounreay beaches."

The Dunters are now virtually subsumed into a new movement, the Campaign Against Dounreay Expansion, comprising groups in the north of Scotland and Northern Ireland. They are demanding a wide-ranging public inquiry.

Who holds the cards in mystery of the tarot?

IT WAS 11 am and the coffee already stated like Nitromors. Not a client in sight. I had slit the mail to see if any dirt fell out and had spiked the usual demands. I was studying this pile of a tattoo-parlour broad, with bazoons like she was shot in the back with rods, when a till bell rang in what remained of my cerebrum.

It shrilled Amanda Lear, who had just slipped her London moorings and was heading back to Europe after giving me the works on her 15-year relationship with Salvador Dali (see last week's cold potatoes). The clue was in something I had just read. It was the advance bumph on a Rainbird book called *Salvador Dali's Tarot*, a commentary by Rachel Pollack on a set of tarot cards designed by the surrealist fruitcake.

The bell rang louder, kicking a few more brain cells into gear. I recalled that in her book *My Life With Dali*, Amanda Lear says Dali was commissioned by producer Cubby Broccoli to design a tarot set for the James Bond film *Live And Let Die*. The idea was that the set would later be marketed.

"This was exactly the kind of project that bored Dali rigid," she writes. "He asked me to do it for him, and I had a wonderful time researching it. I began to cut out pieces of Dali's works from the books he had in the house. From these I tried to make up the tarot characters. It took me several days but I finished the job in the end."

According to Lear, Broccoli gave the bum's rush to Dali's exorbitant price-tag and stuck grimly to his decision when, at Dali's urging, she subsequently made a new pitch at his London office. "Later on, Dali naturally succeeded in selling the tarot cards in New York. You either have a business sense or you don't."

Tasty. Could Salvador Dali's Tarot prove to be Amanda Lear's ticket? The circumstantial evidence as we say in the trade, was there in Rainbird's blurb. This stated that the tarot cards were "the only set to have been painted by a great artist. Ergo the only set attributed to Dali. And Dali had sold Amanda Lear's set under his own name in New York."

Rainbird's publishing director, Maxim Jakubowski, sounded like he was swallowing a chill when I rang him. "Before we parted with the money we went to great lengths to establish as thoroughly as possible the authenticity of the cards," he said. "We have been given a number of certificates of authentication."

He had acquired reproduction rights from the Spanish owners of the artwork, he said. He described the 78 cards as collages — cut-outs which included figures from the *Distribucionese D'Art Surrealistes*, which has offices in Barcelona and at the Dali Museum in Figueras, the artist's Spanish birthplace.

He said Rainbird's reproductions were taken from copies marketed by the Spanish firm at £45 a set. The firm had specified that Rainbird must provide the museum with 300 copies of the book from each of the four countries in which it is being printed.

He had been assured that Dali's wife, Gala, had nurtured her husband's interest in mysticism, and that it was for her that the cards had been painted. "We are quite satisfied that they are the work of Dali," he said.

He seemed to be taking it well, the way some guys do after they've been mugged. Rainbird plans to push the book out with a launch party at the end of next month. (It is published on August 18, £8.95). The book is over-subscribed by 25 per cent on its print run. Jakubowski wryly acknowledged the irony of the situation — he was a founder of Virgin Books, the publisher of Amanda Lear's memoirs. Some eastard pies always return home.

The two main witnesses were out of the running. Gala died in 1982 and Dali is reported to be fenced in by minders with a tube down his throat. There was no choice but to go back to the dish who once claimed she was a *féta*.

Amanda Lear can dematerialise like a UFO and it was another day before she could be reached at her home near Marseilles. By then I had a copy of the Rainbird book. She confirmed that while Dali had an aversion to horoscopes, he had indulged his old lady's enthusiasm for tarot cards and declared her to be a dab hand.

"Dali had no idea about tarot cards. I went out and

bought a set. He gave me a book of his paintings and I cut out some of his figures and glued it all together like a puzzle. Basically I was having fun. Once it was finished Dali did a couple of brushstrokes here and there."

She put the date at 1973 or 1974. Back to Maxim Jakubowski, who admitted this tied in with his information. He then revealed that the original cards are owned and held by a New York bank, and that he had purchased reproduction rights from the *Distribucionese D'Art Surrealistes*, which has offices in Barcelona and at the Dali Museum in Figueras, the artist's Spanish birthplace.

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One of the set from the cover of Rainbird's book

the tarot expert Rachel Pollack, who had never met Dali. He suggested we could split the wood from the pith if the date of Amanda Lear's scissor-job could be nailed down.

Cherchez la femme. If you can, I dissolved a layer of tooth enamel tracing a bemused Amanda Lear to the Hotel de la Ville in Rome. "So far as I know he only made one set, which is the one I made," she said. She had not used works by Goya, Delacroix or other artists. "But I only did the major Arcana, about 12 figures. Maybe they added some more. Dali things are so dodgy."

"Dali had no idea about tarot cards. I went out and



LEAR — a cut and paste job on behalf of the master. Picture by Garry Wesser

Lear firmly declined my offer to describe the cards over the phone. It was too haphazard, she said, citing the minefield of litigation that surrounded Dali's work. She could only know when

the book was in her hands. "We must tread carefully," she cautioned huskily. Only the question of who was picking up the bill for this case stopped me scrambling on to a plane. I contacted a pal of Amanda

Lear's who was flying out to see her last night. The book will be in Lear's hands today, and I expect a call any moment. Interested parties can consult me for my normal fee. Plus expenses.

Goodbye to little green men...

YOU ARE driving with friends in the country when you spot a strange object in the sky. It seems to come closer, then vanishes. Then you find yourself in a semi-dreamlike stage, further along your journey but on an unfamiliar road. Your shoes are unaccountably scuffed, your body hurts, and two hours have sped by.

Later, under hypnosis, you recall the incident. You find yourself on board an unidentified flying object being medically examined by small, robot-like beings with the aid of a large, eye-shaped device. A tall, humanoid creature oversees them. Telepathically, you answer their questions and to your surprise they answer yours. After a hazy period you are back in your car.

This is a fictional model of the rarest type of UFO experience, representing a fraction of the few "alien contact" incidents reported each year. Yet, according to Jenny Randles, national director of investigations at the British UFO Research Association, it is constructed from the common features found in hundreds of accounts in the UFO literature.

In her view, this is a close encounter of the fourth kind, sitting neither the prevalent atmospheric phenomenon nor the (90-95 per cent) nor the typical UFO encounter (2-3



RANGLES — UFO threat. Picture by Martin Argles

per cent). She believes this sort of case to be the province of psychologists and sociologists, reflecting the conclusion in Science and the UFOs, which she has written with Peter Warrington, that if UFO-ology is left in the hands of non-scientists it will never escape the little green men.

Little green men are no longer runners. She says that no convincing photographs have been produced of aliens or UFOs on the ground, whereas atmospheric phenomena frequently mistaken for UFOs do show up on radar and film. This is as disappointing as the conclusion by the president of the Ghost Club that ghosts may

be the product of the collective unconscious. She does not go as far as Carl Jung, whose book *Flying Saucers* (1958) suggests that UFOs may be psychic projections which throw back a radar echo. But she is keen that scientists study the possibility that the proximity of UAPs (unidentified atmospheric phenomena) exerts a "mind-scrambling" effect on the brain, releasing hallucinations deep in the human psyche.

Many of the cases she deals with involve as many as five witnesses, and she admits that five-person hallucinations are virtually unheard of. Investigating psychologists have found no

pattern of abnormality. "However the alien contact experience is subjective and can be real to one group of people, but a group over the road may have seen nothing," she says. She also suspects a form of "witness selectivity" at work.

She insists that BURA does not run away from little green men. In fact she has spent 44 years challenging her own scepticism by investigating the bizarre UFO case near a US military base at Rendlesham Forest in 1980, when a "small triangular craft spewing fire" was seen by several witnesses.

Through the US Freedom of Information Act she obtained an MoD document describing the incident as a UFO encounter, and a tape made by US personnel on the spot. She suspects this is misinformation to disguise the testing of a secret military device.

"An MoD scientist told me recently 'You are messing with something so serious you could end up at the bottom of the Thames. I want to keep pursuing it to the bitter end.'"

Science and the UFOs is published this week by Basil Blackwell, £13.50.

People is written by Stuart Wavell

...hello gushype

GROUND Saucer Watch, the American UFO group, should really investigate Carol Hill, who claims that her sexy bestseller about sub-paraphysics shot into her noddle like radio waves from outer space.

"Unbelievable!" she recently told the Washington Post. "Like the story's coming from outside. Maybe it is. Maybe this sounds crazy. I believe in an enormous positive energy available to us."

Her book, unpromisingly titled *The Eleven Million Mile High Dancer*, is enormously and positively enhancing her bank balance. It is said to combine funk, fantasy, physics and feminism. The film rights have been sold, and both Kate Capshaw and Jessica Lange allegedly want to play Amanda, "the ultimate space-age romantic heroine" who wears skates and shorts.

Sadly Carol Hill (43) cannot skate, but is said to wear space-age earrings. Whereas Amanda has goddess proportions.

"Amanda is not me," she says. "I wish she were me. She's so strong and inspiring. Something's wonderful about her. She's the woman we'd all like to be. She makes me feel it's terrific to be a woman."

We are witnessing an easily explained phenomena here, gushype.

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Derek Brewer, master, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and professor of English, 62; Jeffery Daniels, director, Geoffrey Museum, London, 53; Moslyn Evans, recently retired secretary, the Transport and General Workers' Union, 60; Harrison Ford, actor, 43; Roger McGinnis, singer, founder, the Byrds, 43; David Storey, novelist, playwright, 52.

TOMORROW: Ingmar Bergman, film producer, 67; Gerald Ford, former President of the United States, 72; Leon Garfield, author, 64; Sue Lawley, television journalist, 39; Sir William Beechey, chairman, Arts Council, vice-chairman, BBC, 57.

MONDAY: Julian Bream, guitarist, 52; Lord Buxton, naturalist, a founding director of Anglia TV, 67; Carmen Calli, feminist publisher, founder of Virago, 47; Robert Conquest, author, 68; Michael Elliott, general administrator, National Theatre, 43; Raymond Innes, novelist, 72; Sir Larry Lamb, editor, the Daily Express, 56; Iris Murdoch, philosopher, novelist, 66; Linda Ronstadt, singer, actress, 38.

TUESDAY: Anita Brookner, professor at the Courtauld, Booker winner, 47; Lorraine Chase, model, actress, 34; Margaret Court, former Wimbledon champion, 43; Ginger Rogers, dancer and actress, 74; Tom Rosenzweig, publisher, 50; Barbara Stanwyck, actress, 78; Fitchas Zukerman, violinist, 37.

WEDNESDAY: Hardy Amies, dressmaker, 76; Tim Brooke-Taylor, comedian, 45;

James Cagney, actor, 86; Dianah Carroll, actress, singer, 50; Phyllis Diller, comedienne, 68; Ray Galton, author, scriptwriter, 55; Elizabeth Quinn, actress, 37; Wayne Sleep, dancer, 37; Donald Sutherland, actor, 51.

THURSDAY: Brian Auger, jazz, blues, rock organist, 48; Kenneth Armitage, sculptor, 69; Edward Bond, playwright, 51; Richard Branson, of Virgin Records and Virgin Atlantic, 35; Dave Cash, disc presenter, 43; Nick Faldo, golfer, 28; Senator John Glenn, former astronaut, 64; Andrei Gromyko, President of the Soviet Union, 76; David Hemery, former Olympic hurdler, 41; Elizabeth Jennings, author, poet, 59; Dennis Lillee, cricketer, 36; Robert McGrath, Irish rugby international, 34; Richard Passo, actor, 59; Hugh Stephen, editor, New Statesman, 47.

FRIDAY: John Brathay, painter, 57; Simon Cadell, actor, 35; Cameron Cochrane, headmaster, Fettes College, Edinburgh, 52; Hubert Gregg, actor, composer, lyricist, 69; George Hamilton IV, country singer, 48; Lennox Kentner, pianist, composer, 80; Ilie Nastase, tennis player, 39; Gena Rowlands, actress, 49.

The London Sofa Bed Centre
185-186 Tottenham Court Road, W1.
01-631 1424.
236 Fulham Road, SW10.
01-352 1358.
FIRST-AND STILL FOREMOST

A day for the maximum decibels

Today's televised 16-hour assault on eardrums across the globe from Wembley and Philadelphia is not only unquestionably well meant and well timed but also highly appropriate for its decibel level. Much of Africa is starving. In a world increasingly equipped with instant means of communicating information, propaganda and entertainment it becomes harder and harder to get attention and well nigh impossible to keep it, as any terrorist could confirm. By showing heartbreaking film of the starving, television managed to stir the compassion of governments and private individuals sufficiently to provoke the donation of many millions for relief over an unusually long period. But the attention wanders, even from a massive disaster which threatens 150 million people in 24 countries, and which can be staved off only by a prolonged and sustained aid programme. Other millions of people round the world will find it difficult not to notice today's unprecedented telethon, and with luck it will cause another tidal wave of generosity.

But the hunger which immediately menaces half the continent is only one aspect, albeit the most obviously horrific, of Africa's multiple crises, which has become a gigantic vicious circle. As we reported on Thursday, relief workers are becoming increasingly angry and frustrated because aid which is in any case inadequate is also held up by logistical problems. Bad roads, too few trucks, disintegrating railways, crumbling bridges, choked ports and a shortage of aircraft are just some of the difficulties between the starving and the food which could save them. Complacency before the crisis came to a head in several countries simultaneously and bureaucracy, dogmatism and inefficiency afterwards have not helped either. Yet alongside our report on the anger of the aid organisations we described Africa's burgeoning external debt which now amounts to about £120 billion. Just servicing this debt takes more than a quarter of the affected countries' export earnings and the amount owed is more than half of their combined GNP's.

The relevant governments must buy food on the world markets to supplement the gifts and the drought-stricken crops, and too many of them spend too much on arms. What with that and the debt, it is hardly surprising that there is no money for the infrastructure, let alone the kind of investment that might salvage economies crippled by a world recession and a long catalogue of policy errors, including the disastrous neglect of basic agriculture. Most of the money is owed to western Europe, which means it is in our interest as well as theirs to help dismantle the mountain of debt before it collapses on debtors and creditors alike. Rescheduling has been tried and is obviously nowhere near enough. Some of the debt will have to be written off because it manifestly cannot be repaid in the foreseeable future; there may well have to be a moratorium on repayments in many cases; loans could be turned into grants; and at the same time new money will have to be found for a long-term agricultural regeneration so that a continent will at least be able to feed itself again one day. The scale of the problem defies the imagination and is one of the greatest challenges to humanity. Even so we believe that goodwill on our side and the new resolve in Africa which is beginning to emerge can do it. Difficult though it may be, meanwhile, to equate today's music with the food of love, we hope it will produce real food on a scale to match the noise.

Round and round the rugged rocks

Megaphone diplomacy rarely gets anyone anywhere: and nor, alas, does the associated diplomacy of unilateral gestures. Earlier this week Britain lifted its ban on Argentine imports and, in a self-consciously earnest pose, waited for some completely voluntary reciprocation from Buenos Aires. None came. Instead, Mr Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, proposed some talks where the sovereignty of the Falklands, among other things, would nestle on the agenda. Yesterday Sir Geoffrey Howe was very, very disappointed indeed. But not surprised. For nothing surprising had happened. Britain's Foreign Secretary has spent his week in Brazil. The Brazilians are one important hinge in Anglo-Argentine relations. Sir Geoffrey wished, therefore, to have something reasonable to say and do on his trip. So he dealt in gestures. Unhappily, gestures won't shift a situation which has become set in concrete as solid as the new runway that serves Port Stanley.

There have been moments in recent years when a rational and enduringly peaceful solution to the Falklands problem might have been secured. One — pre-invasion — was the Ridley negotiated (and Thatcher backed) formula which the House of Commons kicked out. Another came in Switzerland in 1984 as talks were set up, and then junked again amid much misunderstanding. The problem now is that those moments have passed and that there is no pressure on Buenos Aires to seek a fresh opportunity. Senior Alfonsín isn't a democratic new boy any longer. And he has a massive economic crisis on his hands: one that he will either crack or be cracked by. In that struggle — all-absorbing — the Falklands are an irrelevant sideshow. Why bother about them? Why take the slightest risk with a peripheral issue of high and futile emotion? Why let pride — and military prowess — into the act?

Mr Alfonsín and Mr Caputo have no remote thoughts of a further invasion. They want to keep their dangerous generals on the sidelines. If someone offered them a decent deal which lanced the boil of Falklands sovereignty painlessly, and far into the future, they are statesmen enough to take the chance: and, in practical terms, everyone involved would save a great deal of cash and heartache. But they have nothing to gain by rushing. There is a little trade, in prospect, to be sure: a few direct airline flights: a fishing agreement. But tiddler stuff beside the whale of a crisis that could swallow them if they abandon Argentina's long-standing territorial claim. And meanwhile such pressure as exists is all on Britain.

We built the runway: now we have to guard it. That is all money, hundreds of millions year after year. And none of our allies thinks the impasse sensible. Not France or Germany or Italy. Not — for some crucial point in the future — the United States. Whenever the United Nations debates the matter, we're left in glum, defiant isolation. And one day, some day, another British government is going to find the long, boring game entirely unworthy the candle.

It is a terrible pity because it is a terrible waste of time and money which — analytically — permits of no happy resolution. Because, too, Mr Alfonsín may be the most promising, reasonable show in Argentina for decades to come. Pity or no, though, we have a stagnant balance where meaningless gestures come to supplant proper diplomacy. We are stuck with sitting this one out: a policy of the inevitable but not, alas, a policy which any of the sitters really thinks will triumph in the end.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Twisting the immigration rules

Sir, — Your report (July 11) of Home Office proposals to change the immigration rules fails to make clear just how outrageous the proposals are.

The Government is introducing new rules because the European Court of Human Rights found that the present rules discriminate against women. The judgment requires the British Government to give women the same rights to marry a foreigner that men currently enjoy.

The new rules will not do this. They will also breach the European Convention in two other ways: they are racially discriminatory and they will deprive thousands of British Asian women and some Asian men of the right to live with their spouses in their own country. This breaches the article of the convention which provides a right to family life.

Currently men are free to bring a fiancée from abroad without restriction, whether they are British citizens or are simply settled in the UK. Women are treated very differently. They can be joined by their fiancés only if they are British citizens. The man must first obtain an entry certificate, which entails a 12-month wait in the Indian subcontinent; and he will be given settlement 12 months after the couple marry.

The really oppressive provision of the current rules, however, is that a woman applying to join a man is assumed to be marrying in order to live in the UK unless he can prove otherwise. This is a massive hurdle.

In practice it excludes men from poor backgrounds and less developed countries.

Entry certificate officers

never assume an American or Canadian is marrying in order to live in the UK. But they are convinced that most applicants from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are doing so.

The rule gives them the power to exclude whomever they like. The test is entirely subjective and is enormous suffering to British Asian women. It also hurts white women who marry black men, and it tends to affect Turkish and Moroccan women.

The rule is being applied quite viciously. Even when the couple marry abroad and a child has been born, the husband is often excluded. There are about 12 women living in my constituency, and undoubtedly hundreds in the country, who are married with children but whose husbands have been excluded under the rule. In many cases the father has never seen his child.

When representations are made to the responsible minister, Mr David Waddington, he makes it clear that he accepts that the marriages are genuine, that the couple intend to live together for

the rest of their life, and that the child is born of the marriage.

Nevertheless he refuses to allow his husband to join his wife and child. He always ends by saying that if the woman is unhappy she should go and live with her husband abroad.

Most of the women concerned were born in Britain. Their families live in Britain. They are British, but because they are Asian the minister thinks they should leave their country and family. He would not dare to require this of white, middle-class women.

The Government says it intends to comply with the European Court ruling by reducing the rights of men rather than improving the rights of women. The Home Office has found a perfect rule for its purposes. In theory, black and white people are treated alike. In practice the rule excludes black and Asian fiancés but not white ones.

However the Government faces some complications. The 1971 Immigration Act provides that men who settled in Britain before



Islands under the US yoke

Sir, — In the wake of the tragedy that struck the Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior* in New Zealand and on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the first nuclear test by the United States in Alamogordo, New Mexico, I wish to add my voice to the growing protest against the nuclear military presence on the islands of the Pacific.

The fate of the people on Marshall Islands, which have been used as a nuclear testing area by the United States since 1947, was brought to the public's attention when Greenpeace recently moved them to an uninhabited island 100 miles away. The French use of Moruroa for nuclear test-

ing, with 41 atmospheric tests up to 1974 and 60 underground tests since then, is also a cause for concern.

In the islands of the Republic of Belau, which has been a UN strategic trust territory under US administration for 37 years, the government has been forced to concede five nuclear test sites under US pressure to secure a "compact of free association" a military, economic, and political treaty giving the US full military rights to Belau for 50 years.

The treaty severely curtails Belau's civil rights, and allows the US to bring in nuclear weapons without any environmental protection.

Such appropriation of land, of peoples, of their culture and of their environment, is a gross violation of human rights. It is no longer tolerated. It is being done in our names, and it must be stopped. We would not wish it to be done to us. — Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Cooper, 5 Lawrence Road, Pinner, Middlesex.

How the Chancellor's cookie crumbles

Sir, — The first step the Conservative Party took on obtaining office in 1979 was to put up interest rates. It was the high interest rates offered by this country, resulting in an overvaluation of the pound by up to 20 per cent, which caused our present slump and massive redundancies. It was that overvaluation which priced British workers out of jobs, and not the activities of the Trade Union Movement.

Today we find the country in an even more serious position. Real interest rates net of inflation are over more than 6 per cent. Mrs Thatcher is always talking about Victorian values. Victorian values involved real interest rates of 2.5 per cent. In the 1930s Britain came out of a similar slump by having real interest rates of 3 per cent which gave rise to an enormous house-building programme and the creation of more than a million jobs in less than two years.

The Chancellor claims that high interest rates are necessary to keep down inflation. He supports this approach by reference to monetary aggregates.

Monetary aggregates have been shown to be very poor measures of inflationary pressure. But what has clearly been shown is that high interest rates increase the monetary aggregates through the flood of hot money pouring into this country. Thus the argument that M3 is above its target range and therefore interest rates should be high, when in fact they push up Sterling M3, is intellectual confusion of the worst kind.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer should recognise that high interest rates put up inflation rather than reduce it.

At the turn of this year sterling was overvalued by more than 10 per cent, causing a flood of foreign currencies other than the dollar, which suffers even more

from overvaluation than we do. Since then high interest rates have pushed up the value of sterling by more than 10 per cent against the mark, the yen and other competing currencies. That means we tax our exports by 20 per cent and subsidise foreign imports to this country by 20 per cent.

The Conservative Government's high interest rate policy has been the gravest attack upon the wealth and industry of this country that we have seen since the South Sea bubble. A government that is committed to a policy that fails to reduce inflation except at the cost of destroying our own industry is clearly incapable of solving our economic problems.

The sooner it goes the better. — Yours faithfully, Roy A. Grantham, (General Secretary), Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, London SW19.

Own goal the Government scored in the House of Lords

Sir, — I have great admiration for our columnist Hugo Young, and usually agree with his views. However, I must correct him where he says (July 11) that the Liberals and SDP when it suits them are prepared to break an agreement.

The Alliance was not asked for and did not give any agreement on the time to be allotted to the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol, etc.) Bill in the Commons and, even if it had, this

would not have been binding on colleagues in the House of Lords.

When Lord Harris of Greenwich raised the matter on the floor of the House on July 11, it was clear that there was much support for the view that there should be a more thorough scrutiny in the Lords of a Bill creating new categories of criminal offences. The Government itself had undertaken to bring forward some amendments and Government back-

benchers, as well as Alliance peers, have also tabled amendments.

It was therefore in our view quite improper to take the committee and report stages in the same day, thus making it impossible for the Lords to think again about amendments proposed in committee.

Everyone is agreed that the Bill should be in the statute book before the commencement of the football

1973, are free to be joined by their wives and children. It cannot therefore apply the new rules to men settled or born before 1973 without amending the Act. This provision protects almost all men of marriageable age.

The Government will not dare to face the uproar such an amendment would cause.

I'm sure the Government is aware the new rules breach the convention, but it takes four years to take a case to the court which will see it through the next election. The Government's claim to respect the rule of law is thus exposed as bogus. And the claim to respect family life clearly does not extend to Britain's Asian community.

These rules represent another sordid chapter in the development of British immigration law. New immigrant workers are no longer coming to Britain, but because racist forces are obsessed with immigration, they have to be appeased.

Britain's black community faces a similar situation. It seeks to invite visitors from abroad, care for their aged parents or marry a person from overseas.

We should all be deeply ashamed of what is being done in our name. The Government said in its submission to the European Court that strict controls were necessary to maintain public tranquility. We should all understand what that is intended to mean. — Yours faithfully,

Clare Short, MP, (Lab., Ladywood; Chairwoman, All-Party Group on Race Relations), House of Commons.

Miscellany at large

Sir, — What mystifies me is why Ron Skyrwalker should imagine the TWA possibly being a threat to Nicaragua when one considers how much it gets from the United States. — Yours faithfully, Bernard Mendoza, Chester.

Sir, — Presumably the next gesture of goodwill to Argentina will be the resumption of arms sales — battle proven, of course. — Yours in peace, Graham Davey, Bristol.

Sir, — May I put in a plea for the impecunious deaf? Could not BBC-TV consider adopting the American system of showing the point by point tennis score? E. G. Boyes, Swindon, Wiltshire.

Sir, — My husband and I both decided recently to stop smoking cigarettes, and to take up pipe smoking and the occasional cigar.

But my boss absolutely refuses to allow me to smoke a pipe in the office, and I have been told by two pub landlords, one restaurateur, and one night club steward that I am not allowed to smoke. I have even been accused of being a lesbian.

Of course, my husband has not encountered any criticism. (Mrs) J. Stoddart, Manchester.

Sir, — Until now I have not written a letter to the Guardian, but like Tony Brooks (July 11), I have received a copy of the English National Party's newsletter. I am not involved in politics; I edit a self-help newsletter for women with menstrual problems and the premenstrual syndrome. — Yours sincerely, Pat Britten, London W2.

(Lord) Kilmarnock, (Chief Whip, SDP Peers), House of Lords.

How industrial spies will keep the computer police busy

Sir, — The time is drawing near when companies that have to register under the Data Protection Act, 1984, must submit their applications. How many, one wonders, actually appreciate the problems they are about to encounter, or the unusual implications of the Act?

Do they know that the Act obliges them to ensure that "appropriate security measures shall be taken against unauthorised access to, or alteration, disclosure or destruction of, personal data"? Section 20 (1) reads: "Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a body corporate... or to be attributable to any director, manager, secretary or similar officer... he



as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of that offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly."

This means that if you have not taken adequate precautions to prevent anyone not authorised from obtaining/destroying personal data

The minister of myths about the National Health Service

Sir, — Many of your readers will have noticed with sadness, tinged with irony, that Kenneth Clarke's letter (July 11) on health service finance would have been written on the same day that you exposed the reality — in reporting — Mr Clarke's planned enforcement of major cuts in Lambeth health district.

He is threatening to dismiss DBA members who are trying to defend standards of patient care for which they are responsible. Nor, of course, is Lambeth unique; in my own district the DBA has shed 100 jobs in an attempt to reduce "overspending" — and will have to defer almost all of its development plan, including a geriatric day unit, because of Mr Clarke's refusal to fund more than half of the recent pay awards to nurses and doctors. Most health authorities will have to take similar actions.

Mr Clarke claims that the NHS is treating people. Like most statistics emanating from the Elephant and Castle, this is a myth.

Many patients, particularly the mentally ill and elderly, are readmitted many times having been discharged not because they are well enough to remain in the community, but to make room for others who are worse. Mr Clarke's figures refer to numbers of admissions, not individuals.

Community care, when it is available, is labour-intensive and therefore expensive; often it is a euphemism for care in hospital and supported by neighbours or relatives.

Some of Mr Clarke's colleagues and, sadly, some of his supporters installed in health authorities peddle the line that "no more money is available." This is another myth.

Last week I was privileged to attend the fifth Congress of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. We were informed that the world now spends \$250,000 every second on arms, while in the same time 250,000 children die and the same number become disabled from treatable illness.

This Government contributes £18,000 million to the arms wastebait.

The Government is starting its annual public spending review. Perhaps Mr Clarke will start by asking his MoD colleagues to forgo the Trident missile system. — Yours sincerely, D. J. Holdstock, MD FRCP, Ashford Hospital, Maidstone.

Sir, — The Minister of Health, Kenneth Clarke,

Slur on South African justice

Sir, — Dan van der Vat (Guardian, July 10) "dismisses the treason charges against the South African UDP leaders."

He unquestionably knows a lot about the Southern African region, but it is saddening to see that he considers himself so knowledgeable that he judges that he need not go to trial, hear no evidence, nor consider any argument by counsel before, in his wisdom, dismissing the charges. Yet consider some of his findings: the UDP, he says, shares the ANC's aims "but without using or advocating the violence to which the ANC turned 25 years ago." Who was it then who ravaged the Indian and Coloured parliamentary elections by a physically intimidatory campaign against potential voters as well as candidates to such an extent that many of the latter were unable even to hold election meetings? Who is who has attacked leaders of rival opposition groups, killing and maiming, and destroying their homes?

The UDP may say officially that it is against violence, unless or until proved guilty, the accused in the trial are presumed innocent; but there can be no doubt that the effect of the UDP's inflammatory rhetoric and the actions of many of its members clearly involves violence.

Mr Van der Vat apparently has information that the South African authorities are putting these men on trial only to "tie them up," not to secure a conviction. If so, this is a strange state of af-

claims that the increase in the number of hospital in-patients (12 per cent) and of out-patient attendances (8 per cent) proves that more people are being treated by the NHS now than in 1978.

However the figures relate only to "discharges and deaths," and take no account of the fact that many patients are recorded more than once: for example, as in-patients at a specialist hospital followed by post-operative care at a local hospital, and perhaps several out-patient attendances. Evidence from obstetric cases where the number of persons is actually known, shows that there is a marked trend towards more frequent attendance but shorter length of stay.

What we are witnessing is a change in management practice in order to use fewer beds more intensively, with perhaps some increase in the number of sick people related to the increasing numbers of the elderly.

With waiting lists as long as in 1978, if Mr Clarke does not accept the above explanation, he is claiming that sickness is increasing.

The Kerner Committee recommended changes in the way NHS data are recorded so that more relevant statistics could be produced. Until such changes are made, we must interpret the data with great care. — Yours faithfully, G. S. Ross, 21 Connaught Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Sir, — Kenneth Clarke can argue until he is blue in the face about the amount of money his Government has put into the NHS, but seeing is believing.

In a geriatric ward not 10 miles from Mr Clarke's constituency, I have watched the staff walk round a ward of helpless, elderly patients, which, only to discharge in order to admit someone in an even graver condition.

In the 18 months during which I visited the hospital almost all the staff, the nurses, the nursing staff was reduced by an alarming extent, and those who remained were deprived of their much deserved "unofficial" payments.

What a way to run a National Health Service while the minister hides behind a smokescreen of accounting "jargon" and seems to regard the sick as mere figures on a profit-and-loss account. The only thing that appears to stir Mr Clarke into action is a by-election in a marginal seat. — Yours sincerely, Sylvia Parsons, 15 Mossell Drive, Red Hill, Nottingham.

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How industrial spies will keep the computer police busy

the "target" computer screen. Such eavesdropping, codenamed "tempest," by the military, has been known about for several years, but has been generally kept from the commercial world.

It is now possible for someone to park in the road outside a building and scan it until a particular computer screen is located. Video recordings, on a continuous basis or as snapshots of the screen can then be taken for later analysis.

It has been estimated that less than 5 per cent of the computers now in service in the commercial sector are secure from surveillance. Enforcing the Act will keep the police, the courts, and industrial spies very busy. — Yours faithfully,

D. Shenton, ICEA Ltd, Bournemouth, Dorset.

WEEKEND SPORT

Howell steers his Olympic city home

DENIS HOWELL, the most convincing political voice of sport in Britain, has won Birmingham the right to put forward a bid for the Olympic Games of 1992. The city, which offers a compact site for many of the sports, now has until October 1986 to win a majority of the votes among the 92 members of the International Olympic Committee against the substantial rival claims of Barcelona, Paris, Brisbane, Amsterdam and the outsiders, New Delhi and Belgrade.

After considering the question yesterday for several hours, listening to each candidate city, asking questions and then deciding whether the winning candidate should go forward, the international sporting policies of the matter were wholly ignored. The BOA members considered only the facilities that Birmingham offered, and on that evidence Birmingham was a runaway winner with 25 votes. Manchester had five and London, twice previously host city to the Games, won only two of the votes.

Howell, a former Minister of Sport, was known to all the members of the

John Rodda on Birmingham's victory over London and Manchester

BOA, who over the years have much admired his contribution to their cause both individually and collectively. He was by far the most experienced sporting spokesman put forward by the three cities.

He had a strong case to argue, with nine of the Olympic sports capable of being housed within the National Exhibition Centre complex, and another stadium to be built which would also be turned over to an exhibition site after the Games.

Howell believes that he can lead a successful campaign, against the odds to the IOC. He is well versed in international sporting politics and was on the short list of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president in 1981, to become a member of the IOC.

Howell could not conceal his surprise at the size of the Birmingham victory, but in the context of the facilities offered they were clearly the

best. "We are like Lester Piggott going round Tattenham Corner — the others are spread all over the course, but falling apart, and we are coming through," he said, giving a hint that the President of the IOC's part in Madame Monique Berlioz's recent departure as director of the Olympic Movement is clearly going to help the Birmingham cause.

In fact the decision should cause the French to split a few bottles of champagne; they will be pleased that the anti-Barcelona vote and the anti-Latin vote will now not be split between Paris and London.

"We want to give the Games back to the athletes and rekindle the Olympic spirit. The true purpose of the Olympic Movement should be to override all the divisions of mankind and unite the competitors," said Mr Howell. As he well knows, the athletes have no vote on which site the

Games should adopt and, when coming to their decision, IOC members are likely to consider much more than sporting facilities. The Savoy, Dorchester and Ritz Hotels in London are just too far away for the IOC members to commute to Birmingham's compact sporting infrastructure; that factor may turn away much of the support Birmingham now seeks.

In the international sporting world there must now be a wry smile that the BOA has put forward a provincial city against three strong candidates. Some may interpret it as a feeling that Britain does not really want the Games after all.

Howell said that Birmingham will have £1,000 million in sporting infrastructure and because of the existence of the NEC will need only to find £200 million. They expect to make a profit of £350 million. The figures, of course, are based on previous guide-

lines laid by the IOC for bidding cities. For 1992 the rules will be different; there will be no scope to make the vast profit which the Los Angeles Games achieved.

The next crucial step for Birmingham will begin on Monday, when they must set about raising the necessary funds to mount the bid to the IOC. They will need to bring as many as possible of the IOC members to Britain, and in view of the shortness of time, to attend major sporting events where they are likely to meet IOC members.

They will discover that for the crucial October 1986 period the major hotels of London, where the IOC will decide the question, are already fully booked. All this will cost about £1.25 million, as Mr Howell said at a press conference when the Birmingham bid was launched. So far they have £250,000, but the suggestion several

weeks ago that they would go to the government for such funds has now been replaced by confidence that the private sector will come forward.

Manchester, whose bid was similar to that of Birmingham in that their proposed sites were reasonably close, were disappointed with their five votes: London, with two, were stunned. The capital had mounted a very low key submission, without videos or glossy booklets.

"We clearly could not convince the members that the travelling to be done would be accomplished with ease in 1992. Many of them had spent hours sitting in buses during the Los Angeles Games and clearly thought this would occur again," said Sir Alan Trill, the Lord Mayor of London.

Charles Palmer, chairman of the BOA, confirmed the point. "We were concerned about any bid that required cross city transport for the majority of competitors — that weighed strongly on our minds," he said.

Matthew Engel reports on the second day of the third Test at Trent Bridge

England fall from their lofty perch

CRICKET

ENGLAND'S assault on a batting Everest floundered somewhere around the South Col yesterday. Six hundred, said David Gower on Thursday night: 456 all out said the Trent Bridge score board at bedtime yesterday. And since the board read Australia 94 for one at the close, a day that had glittered with possibilities for England ended with the draw staring to look a tedious probability.

After two days of the third Test, England still led by 302. One assumes they are already defeat-proof, though England scored 456 and lost at Leeds in 1948 and at Melbourne in 1928-29. There can have been very few teams in history who were 358 for two and then lost.

It was an old-fashioned collapse to go with the old-fashioned Nottingham pitch. It seems to me that far too much time in cricket is spent these days watching capable but unexciting later batsmen fiddle about. Talk-enders should be either run out or bowled out, except in the situation of extreme crisis, when they are allowed to be gallant.

There was just a hint of incompetence about the way England contrived to lose their last eight wickets for 98, the middle four of them in 11 deliveries. It was rather startling from a team

in which only Sidebottom has not made a Test 50. But one part of the collapse was quite encouraging for England: Lamb was left before a not very full delivery from Lawson that skidded through — the first sign that what one spectator called the "dehadedified" pitch might be something less than a batsman's friend by the later stages. Lamb, however, may have found it hard to look on the bright side.

So might Gower. For almost two hours, it was hard to see where he was ever going to find another wicket. The gates were closed; the weather, though the sun shone only occasionally, was nicely bracing, like Skegness on a good day; and the crowd were all for the ascent — the Gower 200, the Gating 100, whatever.

The Australian's afflicted stomachs were better yesterday and their bowling improved steadily throughout the evening but then it started from a very low base.

and by this time Gower and Gatting were entrenched. They began cautiously yesterday — only 23 in the first hour — but saw off the New ball and as Lawson and McDermott tired, Gower began to unleash a selection of These Strokes You Have Loved, mainly off the back foot.

Australia needed a fluke, and they got it. Gower, straight-drove Holland, who parried the ball on to the stumps with Gatting, on 74, out of his ground. Curiously, the same thing had almost happened to his wife on Thursday. But he did not have much time left at the crease to think about that. O'Donnell found him undecided and Phillips took the catch. Gower's 156 had taken just over six hours.

He did not even have much chance to savour that. Thirty-five minutes after lunch came Lamb's mishap, and Botham lotted to mid-off. Next ball he had made 38 in eight minutes with seven fours and, as ever, no one had

dared go to the loo or blink while Botham was batting. But somehow one had sensed that it was not going to be one of the great days and it was not, for Botham or anyone else.

Downton was out fifth ball for his second successive caught, to a superb diving catch from Richie at square leg. "Of all people," said the whole of Australia in unison, since Richie is not famous for such things. Sidebottoms, first Test innings was also brief, and 416 for four had become 419 for eight. There were a few runs left, but not many. Australia were in after tea, and Lawson had found himself with five wickets in a Test innings for the 10th time without ever firing at full pace.

Australia set off in pursuit after tea, with 257 to avoid the follow-on the first priority. That did not look a problem. Hilditch's hook was in better order than it has been (as was his previously shaky stomach). The England attack with Botham now the undisputed downwind bowler, looked much steeper than Australia's, but a bit toothless.

Perhaps Saturday will again inspire Botham. But it might have been more interesting to see what a really fast bowler would have made of this pitch.

There were a few further signs of uneven bounce towards evening. And even tually, Allott made the



GATting GOING... after being run out yesterday. Umpire Constant stays to replace a ball. Picture by Frank Baron

breakthrough, with Hilditch being lbw pushing forward to a ball that would probably have shaved leg stump. By then Wood, after a run of failures, was starting to look

set. After the nightwatchman, Wessels will be in. Englishmen will arrive at the ground this morning with a much more measured tread than today.

As part of crowd-control measures, players have been asked not to sign autographs while fielding on the boundary during this Test.

Paul Fitzpatrick at Gloucester

Graveney's men glowing

THERE can be no doubting now the validity of Gloucestershire's challenge for the Britanno Assurance county championship after this emphatic win by 110 runs over Worcestershire at Tuffrey Avenue yesterday.

It was their second victory of the festival, and their sixth in all. They are back on top of the table, and they do not look out of place.

Setting Worcestershire a target of 236 to win in a minimum of 57 overs, Gloucestershire were only into the first of the final 20 overs when the Jamaican bowler, Walsh, plied his bat to complete a win that had always looked likely and a formality once Kapil Dev had departed.

Once again, Gloucestershire's pace attack justified all the complimentary things being said about them. Lawrence bowled really quick for eight overs and removed both Worcestershire openers, forcing Curtis into short leg and then ripping out a bat-pad when d'Oliveira's off stump when the batsman shaped to pull a delivery not quite short

enough or bouncy enough for such treatment. Kapil played what must have been one of the most restrained innings of his adventurous life. His second 50 of the match was much closer to character, with the ball struck effortlessly and often to the boundary. That first 50 took 130 balls; this one just 55.

But Gloucestershire were so heavily insured against defeat that they could afford to let him indulge himself and wait for the blunder. It came when he had made 57 and his downfall was curiously tame as he pulled a short delivery from Walsh gently into the hands of Lloyds, just backward of square.

Walsh, bowling with real pace in this spell, had already trapped Rhodes how and he finished off the innings in short order by uprooting Illingworth's off stump and beating Radford on the back foot.

The Gloucester week, which had been in danger because of poor support, has been saved for at least a year. The city council have guaranteed £4,000 backing.

Yesterday's other county games — page 14.

cut back sharply off the seam. The batsman looked perplexed when he should have been ready to defend arms and then saw the ball chip the top of middle stump.

At tea, Worcestershire were 45 for five and the only worry for Gloucestershire was the massive presence of Kapil. It is always fascinating to see the high-quality player rise above the constraints of a difficult pitch and this one had never been easy from the start with its variable, sometimes exceptionally low, bounce.

SOCCER IN BRIEF

Nicholl's Dell job

SOUTHAMPTON yesterday recruited their second successive manager from Grimsby when Chris Nicholl, the former Saints and Northern Ireland centre-half, was appointed to the three-year contract at the Dell as successor to Lawrie McMenemy.

Nicholl, 38, who started his League career at Halifax has spent the last two years as assistant manager and player at Grimsby, making 270 appearances for Southampton between 1977 and 1983. He will select his coaching team once he has settled into the job.

One of Nicholl's first tasks will be to try to persuade the England midfielder David Armstrong to stay at the Dell. The chairman, Alan Woodford, has already dismissed speculation that goalkeeper Peter Shilton may follow McMenemy to Sunderland.

THE POOLS companies yesterday dismissed newspaper reports that they are threatening to remove Football League clubs from their coupons and cut off financial support.

Reports had said the Pools Promoters Association were upset by demands from the football authorities for more money, which it was suggested, would come from a new pools levy board.

But the PPA secretary Roger Calvert said: "We have not considered a levy as a serious possibility, and have certainly made no threats. We make an enormous contribu-



NICHOLL: Grimsby link

David Davies at The Belfry

Wary Marsh sees danger in the course

GOLF

All Graham Marsh has to do today is to go out onto the Belfry course, live on a knife edge for four hours, score a 70 or better, and he will earn himself £20,000.

That anyone is his estimate of what it will take to win the Lawrence Bailey International in which he has a two-stroke lead over Rick Hartmann with his six-under-par total of 210. Michael King is three shots behind and at five behind is a formidable trio in Sandy Lyle, Jose Maria Canizares and Roger Chapman.

DENNIS MORTIMER has been signed by Brighton. When the 35-year-old midfielder player was released by Aston Villa at the end of last season he decided to retire, but Chris Cattlin, Brighton's manager and former team-mate of Mortimer at Coventry, has persuaded him to join the Second Division club.

ALAN DAVIES must decide whether to leave Manchester United for Coventry — as a straight swap for Peter Barnes, who yesterday signed a two-year contract at Old Trafford, United agreed to pay £50,000 for Barnes, but no money will change hands if Davies, a Welsh international, agrees to go.

EVERTON, the League champions, are to tour Canada after the relaxation of FIFA's ban on English clubs playing abroad. They meet the Canadian national XI on July 31, followed by at least one further game against Toronto Blizzard.

Jacklin. He played the last three holes in three under and as a consequence is two ahead of his playing partner and a man he dearly wants in the team, Ken Brown.

Marsh, in general, played carefully controlled golf yesterday. The one hole where he was threatened was the eighth where he hit a one iron for his second at a hole measuring 460 yards but into a sliffish wind. The ball finished half in and half out of the stream bordering the green and Marsh, after removing shoes and socks, waded in and literally splashed out to 30 feet. It was a brave shot and was followed by a braver putt that fairly rattled into the hole for an unlikely par.

Rick Hartmann, 92nd in the Epson Order of Merit, played the best golf of his career yesterday. He was the only man in the field not to have a single bogey.

Marsh missed the cut in this event last year and has no illusions about what needs to be done today. "There is disaster on almost every hole out there," he said. "You can be playing really well and suddenly the course will turn against you and you have to accept a 78. You really do live on a knife's edge and a seven-shot lead is not enough to be sure. Anyone level or better is still in this tournament."

That brings in the American, D. A. Weir, the only other player to match par, although Howard Clark is only one over and there are only two players on two over. Neither can be said to have wrapped out a selectorial warning for the Ryder Cup for Roger Davis is an Aussie and not eligible and the other is already the captain and only selector, Tony

CYCLING

Charles Burgess with the Tour de France

Back seat job for Hinault

Bernard Hinault, the Frenchman who is heading for a record-equaling victory in the Tour de France, reiterated yesterday that next year he would not ride to win but to help the man who is his first lieutenant, and second at the moment, Greg Lemond, of the United States.

The 30-year-old Breton was 40 minutes late for a news conference at his hotel in the Alps above Grenoble on the only rest day, but that did not worry the 150 journalists who turned up. "They knew he was the story — even if he had just blown his nose — and would have waited longer, even without the drinks provided by his management and named product by the tour's official, accordant."

Every vantage point was taken as Hinault apologised for his lateness, having been on a 70-kilometre training run. The Japanese television cameraman sitting under the table, with a perfect shot of the back of Hinault's head, did not understand, but that did not matter. "The decision has already been taken," Hinault, the leader of the team sponsored by La Vie Claire, a health-food chain that has a shop in London, said. "Next year I will not be the captain: I will work for Greg or whoever is the team leader, that is up to them."

PAGE 15—Sherwen's cycle of domestic service.

At the front of the hotel Lemond, the 25-year-old Californian, was holding court to a small press corps, who said this year has 31-minute lead with a week to go, slows down any possible plan will not work. He said: "If Bernard rides next year as he is doing now it would be ridiculous for him to ride for me."

One of the baffling questions in cycling is when does a team leader cease to be a team leader and, with Lemond and Hinault, this occupies the minds of many. Lemond, ever loyal to the man he regards as his elder brother rather than a close friend, refused to be drawn on and destroy his official boss if it came down to it. "There is no question of that happening because Bernard is so far ahead that no one can catch him."

What, I asked, if Hinault were to collapse on a mountain top, Lemond said: "If there was nothing I could do for him, I would leave him and go on for the good of the team."

Lemond was the second lieutenant to last year's winner, Laurent Fignon, and has since joined Hinault's team. He is still young but cannot for ever wait in other people's shadows.

Still, Hinault, stronger than anyone this year, does not seem to be in any danger and said yesterday that he would be willing to lose time himself, although not the leader's yellow jersey, in order to preserve Lemond in second place. That will make things hard for the men lying in third and fourth place, the Irishmen, Stephen Roche and Sean Kelly.

They know that whenever they consider making an attack Lemond will go with them. If he sits on the back and they have to work too hard they could endanger their position by wearing themselves out.

Evening racing

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WEEKEND SPORT: THREE

Mystery of the Red Float incident

Brian Clarke, author of *Pursuit of Stillwater Trout*, begins a series of occasional articles on angling with an account of how he got hooked

BLANKETY-BLANK years ago this month a small, tubular, Bakelite float, brown on the underside, red on top, pirouetted its way down a river, caught in an eddy and burst out of sight. A bamboo rod, held on with the rings held on with a bobbin and some part of a sewing machine, was jerked awkwardly skywards, and in that sun-shot, faraway instant one three-ounce gudgeon and one small boy were each hooked for life.

The fish, as first fish inevitably are, was taken home, cleaned, paraded and popped-and-circumstance-fried in the pan and I was caught forever in the cocooned intensities of angling.

Since that time, I have always loved floats. But then, all fishermen love floats for the reason I've just illustrated. Most anglers begin fishing when they are young and because children cannot handle complex equipment and need something to hold their attention, they begin fishing with floats. Floats are both simple to handle and absorbing to watch.

And so — think of a float, conjure a childhood. Remember

her innocence and light and school holidays and bicycle rides and bright red floats packed with sandwiches, and excitement and first experiences of a thousand kinds. Nothing in life will have the same mesmerism as a float on still water. And nothing will prove as riveting, as that same magical object waiting and gliding down a fast-moving stream, curving to the bite of a fish, this time monster. I use floats less often now: I go coarse fishing less. Trout have become my first love. And yet still I fish a float most summers, somewhere.

I have a lifetime's collection to choose from: long floats, short floats, thin floats, fat floats. I've got cork bungs big enough to stop a boat, for pike minutes, hardly-there-at-all floats, for dace and roach; antennas floats for fishing in the wind, slider floats for plugging the deep, transparent floats made to look like bubbles.

Yet when I reach for them in the next couple of weeks my choice will not be based on technical grounds. I can get technical about trout. But I don't often want to be about floats. My attitudes are based largely on nostalgia, aided by idiosyncrasy.

So — though every float I possess will go with me, I'll be dying to use just three. The most important float of all, my Bakelite, road-to-Damascus float, won't be there, of course. I lost that when I was about 13, hooking it from a ball on the path. The second float, a water on the other side of the bridge, where working-class lads were not allowed; marvellous chub water that oiled under alders and curled around a bend.

But the other, Big Three will be there: the Red Float Incident float, the Swale Barbel Bagger and the Regional Dixon Irish Pond Walzer. Special-memory floats more vividly described by the experiences which left them

quill, the whole shape gradually getting fainter in detached slow motion.

After what must have been an age the spell finally snapped and I was fused and alert, my hand hovering over the rod-but as though it were a six-gun, my eyes zooming in on the water. And there sat the float, motionless as before, still clinging itself in the surface.

I could hear my heart still thumping, but the sense of relief was enormous. I hadn't missed one. Any bite is important to a small boy. But on that dark, still pool, who knows what might have been? I settled back again and relaxed.

And then, long moments later, through some slow permeation, something caught my eye: a faint wink of light, and then another: the faintest ebbing ripples, several yards across. Rings which had my motionless float, dead-centre.

I grabbed the rod in a mixture of panic and dread, and struck as hard as I could. There was nothing, absolutely nothing. No fish, no bait and to my disbelief, no hook either. The line had been bitten clean through, two inches above the hook.



That's it. Simply one small boy on a high summer's pond experiencing a surreal moment that has marked him for life.

Of course, from time to time, logic threatens to intervene. Given the size of the pond, the kinds of fish it

probably held, the modest sizes probably achieved because of the pH factor, the weed growth and the insect and other food available. ... But when all that stuff creeps in, I push it out again. Who knows — really knows — what might have

been in that deep, dark pool that sun-stilled day? Or what might have happened if I'd been more alert and struck when the float first sank? Like I said, that's the marvellous thing about floats. I think of one, conjure a childhood, magic a memory.

David Davies looks at the strain of rivalry between Bernhard Langer and Severiano Ballesteros as Royal St George's beckons

Two kings of Europe vie for Open crown

THE picture editor of the French sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*, has a good idea why not Severiano Ballesteros and Bernhard Langer, two of the best golfers in the world, to pose together at one end of the Champs Elysees, with the Arc de Triomphe in the background symbolising their superiority over the rest of Europe?

Both men were staying within a short stroll of the desired spot, and when approached Langer, the US Masters champion, agreed immediately. However, Ballesteros, the Open champion, took a different approach: having patiently listened to the proposal, he said: "I will do it, but only on my own; there will be no Langer."

The result is the picture you see on the right. Picture editors no more than anyone else, do not like to be dictated to.

But perhaps more interesting than the picture is the attitudes revealed by it. Langer is a controlled and courteous man, always willing to help and quite capable, for instance, of conducting an interview over lunch if that is what is required.

Ballesteros is totally a man of mood. At times he will talk almost non-stop, for an hour or more; at others he will be almost inaudible, on the run, making briskly for the locker-room. He can be an infinitely attractive person than Langer, and he can also be a boor.

It is hardly surprising, certainly to those who deal with him day to day, that Ballesteros refused to share that Parisian stage with Langer. There is no doubt in the Spaniard's mind about who is the best golfer in Europe — or, come to that, the world.

Ballesteros is his own No. 1, and while he bears Langer no personal animosity there is, I suspect, a considerable antagonism. No one is allowed to have his head higher, in a golfing sense, than Severiano. It is that element of inbred superiority which will make for a fascinating confrontation

tion in the 1985 Open Championship at Royal St George's next week.

The two men will be, for many, the pre-championship favourites. Ballesteros, with four majors to his credit, will have the edge in the betting over Langer, who as yet has only one. But you have to go back to pre-war days for the last instance of Europeans being the favoured candidates for the Open. It adds more than a little spice to the proceedings that while each may respect the other's performance they seem not to like each other much.

The first sign that their rivalry had an edge to it came in the Suntory World Matchplay Championship last year: the two men were to meet in the final, and to the astonishment of the assembled press corps were interviewing Langer after the semi-final. He had a go at Ballesteros's on-course manners. "He is not an easy man to play with," the German said. "He intimidates you."

By that, it turned out, he meant that Ballesteros almost literally never speaks to a partner or opponent during a round. Langer, not accustomed to that kind of treatment, had taken it in the past as being the cold shoulder.

He had reason to suspect that might be so because in 1983, when as leader of the Order of Merit he had a place on the selection panel for the Ryder Cup, he was one of those who voted not to include Ballesteros in the team. The Spaniard, you may remember, had had his difficulties with the European Tour that year over appearance money, and had quite

simply not qualified for the team.

The two of them had played the final round of the 1984 Open at St Andrew's. Before the day's play started, Ballesteros told his caddy that in order to win the championship he must beat his immediate partner and that led to round of golf in which they spoke briefly before and after and not at all during.

The uproar created by Langer's allegation at Wentworth led to sensational headlines about "rounds of silence" and so on. There was not a lot of communication, Ballesteros won 2 and 1, and afterwards there were a lot of denials about who had meant what.

"We are good friends," Ballesteros said, happy in victory, and the photographers asked him to shake hands with Langer. He refused. "Why should I?" he said. "We are friends, we do not have to."

Langer is not the first to run into, and suffer from, Ballesteros's way of getting the best out of himself.

Langer and Ballesteros have contested directly two events this year, the US Masters and the Carroll's Irish Open. Langer, of course, won the championship at Augusta and was congratulated by Ballesteros as they came off the 72nd green. He put his arm round Langer's shoulders, he patted his back, he spoke insistently into his ear to make sure he was heard above the cheering of the crowd. It was a sincere demonstration of Ballesteros's innate sportsmanship, and it came when there was no longer anything he could do but accept defeat.

In the Carroll's the two men faced each other in a play-off. At the third extra hole, the 18th at Royal Dublin, in front of the packed stands, Ballesteros ran in a 35ft putt for a winning birdie, and so utterly delighted was he that he went into a punching routine that might well have impressed Marvellous Marvin himself.

Afterwards I asked him if he was particularly glad to have beaten Langer rather than anyone else, for the title. "I am always very happy," he said, measuring his words, "to beat a great champion."

If Langer is a great champion, how we evaluate Ballesteros is a poser. My instinct is to say that he is one of the greatest champions, and that he may well prove it again next week at Royal St George's.



ONLY A DRIVE AWAY... Bernhard Langer points to the Arc de Triomphe — a symbolic gesture

Sherwen's cycle of domestique service

THERE ARE 158 riders left as the Tour de France enters its final week and the man lying last is Paul Sherwen, the 28-year-old Briton. He is nearly 24 hours behind the leader, Bernard Hinault, but his position and time matter not a jot to him or his La Redoute team.

For Sherwen is not and never was, riding the Tour to win. That is the responsibility of his team leader, Stephen Roche, currently third. Sherwen's job is to help Roche at all times, sacrifice himself if necessary, and not complain. He is a domestique, a member of the poor bloody infantry of the Tour and he is in good company. More than half the riders are already over an hour behind Hinault and will no doubt lose more time before Paris tomorrow week.

We spoke, over tea, in the garden of a cafe in Villard de Lans just after Sherwen had finished Thursday's individual time trial. At the last man he had gone first and joked that as he crossed the line he had the best time of the day. He finished 146th.

He explained the job of a domestique, one that he has done for nine years in Europe, coming over here the day after he was awarded his degree in paper technology at Manchester University.

"What I had to do in the time trial was to get round without getting eliminated and that meant finishing within the allotted time," said Sherwen. "You get a map of the course and you work out what the winner will do and then attempt to finish within 25 per cent of his time."

"It is a waste of energy to try anything else for I have to be fit for the stages when I can help Stephen. Even if I tried as hard as I could I would only finish 70th or 80th in a time trial so there is no point."

He continued: "I was an amateur when I first came to France and in six months I was the second best in France. I turned pro with a lot of hopes but I turned pro for the wrong team and did not have anyone to explain things to me. After three years I realised I was not going to be a star. But there was nothing degrading about it. Everybody has their limitations and it is just something you have to accept. I realised



Paul Sherwen (above) will not win the Tour de France but could decide who does. Charles Burgess reports on the modern Jeeves on wheels

that you can still have your place as a domestique. My job with La Redoute is to look after Stephen. Maybe on a day when he is having a bad time I can help him by shielding him from the wind. But when it comes to the crunch I know he is better than me. On the flat stages I help him stay as near to the front to the plecton (the main bunch) as possible, ideally in the first 20. You have always got to keep an eye out for an attack and that can be very difficult when there are 180 riders. Sometimes you can lose sight of people and have to drop back through to see where everybody is.

"We have a team meeting every day when we work out and discuss who is dangerous to us, about who not to let get away. If there is somebody who gets away and I am in a good position I will attempt to go with the break and stay at the back to try to slow them down. Although sometimes the bunch is getting out of hand the team manager will drive up and tell me to stop altogether."

"Basically the idea is that the team leader should use as little energy as possible until he needs to. On the Tour after 50 kilometres and up to 30 to go you can drop

back to a team car for drinks. I would do that and also go back for a spanner if the team leader needs to do any adjustments to his bike on the move."

"I have to make sure he does not lose too much time if he punctures. With up to 15 kilometres to go I would stop with him and quickly change his punctured wheel for mine but any closer to the finish I would give him my bike, which is almost the same size as his, and then drop back to the team car to get another. With a race this size sometimes the bunch is spread out in a line over two minutes long and Stephen could not afford to wait that long."

He added: "On the flat stages when there are bunch sprints my job is to lead Stephen out for the final push. You try to make sure you are on the outside and can leave a gap for him to get through on my slipstream. That is the theory at least."

By his own admission Sherwen is not a man for the mountains but neither are many of his rival domestiques. They form what they call the autobus, an alliance that allows them all to ride together to get up the hill in the allotted time and work another day. Sherwen said: "You still have to ride pretty hard but everybody looks after each other's water bottles, to make sure they all finish."

New Shepman if thinking of coming home to England, to race for a couple of years and look around for another job.

Sherwen survives on this Tour because the judges rewarded his courage for continuing after an accident earlier in the week, even though he finished out of the allotted time. "When I have been abandoned in the past it has been awful but it happens."

"When I fell off the other day I was out of my mind for a long time. I could hardly pedal and there were times when I could have walked faster. But I said to myself, 'You can't get off now, not now.' It would have been a terrible way to end my time on the Tour. I am riding the best race in the world and it would be heartbreaking to stop."



BRIDGE

Rixi Markus

THE Juan les Pins Festival, Europe's premier bridge event, starts with a three-session individual competition, followed by a five-session championship pairs, a three-session mixed pairs and finally, a three-session teams of four — a total of 13 days of concentrated bridge. 550 pairs competed in this year's pairs championship, and over 300 pairs in the mixed event.

I have been going to the Juan les Pins Festival for nearly 30 years — this was the 36th Festival at Juan — and I particularly noticed this year how much the general standard of the average players has improved. There were very few poor players, and the top players now have to work very hard to achieve good results. 1985 was the year of the Polish champions, who took first and second place in the main event; furthermore, Martens of Poland came second in the mixed pairs with Mme Desrousseaux of France.

Here is a deal from the mixed pairs which I enjoyed. North dealt with East-West vulnerable.

North
5432
A 10974
K 105
A 10

West
9
J8
A962
K J10983

South
A Q J106
K J
A 7
7542

South West North East
Markus Kollschoff
1S 2C 2S NB
4S NB 2S NB

West led the ace and another diamond against my contract of 4S. I won the second diamond in dummy and finessed the queen of spades which held the trick. A club to dummy was followed by a second spade finesse, and I drew East's last trump and paused to take stock.

(1) This hand obviously qualifies for an opening bid, but West was an avid point-counter. (2) I do not mind light third in hand openings, but only in a suit which you want your partner to lead. (3) Strong, but not forcing. West led the ace and another diamond. I won with the king and convinced that West held A-10-x-x of trumps, I ran the eight of spades at trick three. To my surprise, East won with the ten. I ruffed high and played another spade to the queen and ace. Having ruffed the diamond continuation, I cashed two more trumps, discarding two hearts from dummy. Fortunately, West also elected to come down to two hearts and three clubs, and I was able to duck a heart and make the nine of hearts as my ninth trick.

"I had to double, partner," murmured West. "I had eleven points."

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Advance can go one better

YORK (ITV)
2.0 (57): **BROADHURST** has each-way prospects, having run well when a neck second to the odd-on **Falling Feather** at Beverley. With only 7st 10lb she should not be far away.

2.30 (1m): **ADVANCE** beat all bar **Come On The Blues** in the Royal Hunt Cup and must win a decent handicap soon. He finished **Run** better and a half ahead of **Vintage Toll** (now 4lb better off) at Ascot and I take him to confirm the form with this notoriously faint-hearted rival.

3.0 (1m): **TANTINO** has his fair share of weight but in the spring this Rustino colt was working well with **Balra** and could just be a cut above the opposition after opening his account at Newcastle two weeks ago.

AYR (ITV)
1.45 (77): **CHARTINO** ran on strongly when short-

Chris Hawkins on the TV races

headed by Cumtate at Newmarket, having finished unplaced to **Fassano** on his debut that form sounds better than anything achieved by his rivals.

2.15 (1m5f): **OLD HURBERT** is one paced but this is a poor race and he may be good enough. Last time out he was not disgraced when fourth to **Clanrath** at Haydock.

ELLINGHAM made the running and kept on well when third to stable-companion **Grand Pavois** at Royal Ascot and a reproduction of that effort should be good enough.

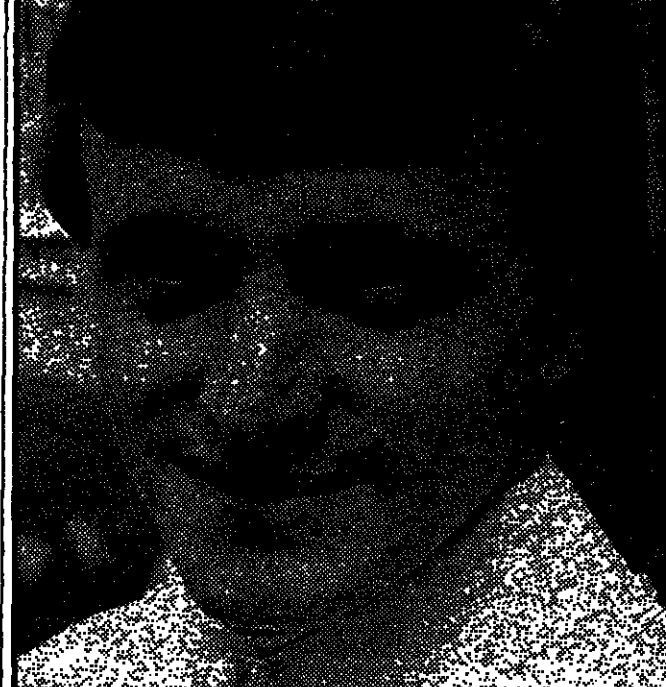
LINGFIELD (BBC-1)
2.0 (57): **HELAWE** is worth another chance after disappointing badly when a beaten favourite at Brighton last time. He was previously third to **Sure Blade** and

Green Desert at Newmarket and is entitled to win a race on that form.

2.30 (7f): **PROTECTION** put up a magnificent weight-carrying performance when winning the Britannia Handicap at Royal Ascot under 8st 7lb. He obviously has a touch of class and talented as the four-year-old **Capricorn Belle** is, I doubt the filly being able to give him 13lb.

3.0 (14m): **SKARAMANGA**, an unbeaten son of Shirley Heights, is hard to assess but he looks very good. Today will tell us more, for in **Spicy Story** he is up against a very smart stayer.

THE CURRAGH (BBC-1)
3.10 (14m): **SALLY BROWN** is an improving filly whose form stands up well. She won the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot from **Gracia Magna**, who subsequently trotted up in the Lancashire Oaks.



Pat Eddery, who partners Dublin in the Irish Oaks.

Sally Brown best in Irish Oaks

Richard Baerlein

The Giltown Stud Irish Oaks is the last European classic of the season before the various St Leger come along in the autumns.

David O'Brien has complicated any logical summing up of the race by stressing that he will not make a decision about the participation of the probable favourite, **Aldred**, before he has inspected the ground this morning.

Recently she found her form when winning the Irish Sweepstake at the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot, where she confirmed she is on the upgrade.

Dubian has had a busy season and I prefer Sally Brown, who has only run three times, winning the last two. She proved herself over the distance when taking the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot, where she confirmed she is on the upgrade.

The £30,000 York Smith Magnet Cup at York is the top prize in England, where 14 highly competitive handicappers face the starter in an open race.

Hern and Bruce Hobbs have both won the race four times and are represented by **Pagan** of Troy and **Evros** respectively. **Pagan** of Troy has had training troubles and has plenty of weight for one who has appeared so little in public since last year, and twice this. He has yet to live up to the promise he showed first time out.

Evros could not be lower in the weights—he will be 3lb more than his long handicap weight—and has won three of his last four starts. He failed over one and a half miles but was quickly brought back to win over one and a quarter miles, and promises to develop into a very high class juvenile.

Tantino, another improving three-year-old, hit the winning trail at Newcastle enabling his rider that day, **Edward Hyde**, to take fifth place in the all-time winnings of English jockeys. **Hide** will have the mount again and I am tempted to go along with him but he has to give 10lb to **Evros**.

Prince has also been back to his best distance, while **Chiclet** appeared to win at Newmarket on June 1 with a little in hand and it was no mean feat in his previous race to run **Grand Pavois**, a subsequent Ascot winner, to one and half lengths at Doncaster. He represents **Grand Pavois** in here with around 8st 7lb, at which he would be the automatic favourite but I still prefer **Evros**.

Advance, second to **Come On The Blues** in the Royal

Hunt Cup when strongly fancied, can get compensation in the Holmeier Lager Handicap.

I have a confident tip for **Shivering Cold** in the opening Jervaux Selling Stakes. He made his debut in better company.

Champion trainer, **Henry Cecil**, and the champion jockey, **Steve Cauthen**, go to Lingfield with **Protection** and **Skaramanga**, both of whom won during Ascot week.

Protection has Mahogany to beat. Although the latter has not won this season she ran quite promisingly last time out.

Skaramanga, a son of Shirley Heights, is still unbeaten after three runs and should remain that way after the St Leger, which has a very small field of four considering the prize is £20,000.

For the best bets of the day I go to Salisbury where **Pictograph** should repeat a course victory in the Fair Trial Handicap. He missed a number of tempting engagements to come back to the course where he scored with any amount in hand.

Highest Praise also made his debut here at the last meeting and it will take a good one to beat him in the Myroella Stakes.

Royal Harmony, well beaten at Newmarket in a race won by **Khodur**, makes his second appearance of the week in the Mecca Bookmakers Scottish Derby at Ayr. He gets worked up these days before his races and is no longer reliable.

Evros could not be lower in the weights—he will be 3lb more than his long handicap weight—and has won three of his last four starts. He failed over one and a half miles but was quickly brought back to win over one and a quarter miles, and promises to develop into a very high class juvenile.

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Advance, second to **Come On The Blues** in the Royal

YORK CARD

- 1 30-Slate Market
- 2 00-Broadhurst
- 2 30-ADVANCE (nap)
- 3 00-Tantino
- 3 35-Mazaad
- 4 05-Rambling River
- 4 35-Eastern Mystic

JACKPOT AND PLACEPOT: First six race, £40,000 each way, 50% of pool, 50% of pool, 50% of pool.

- 1 30-JERVAUX SELLING STAKES: 3-Y-O; 6f; £2,501 (15 runners).
- 1 (12) 0 BLACK BARK (Horsepower Racing) M. W. Eastley 8-11 M. Hobson
- 2 (12) 0 BURNING BAY (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 3 (12) 0 LA BARRICA (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 4 (12) 0 RABBIT RABBIT (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 5 (12) 0 RABBIT RABBIT (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 6 (12) 0 RABBIT RABBIT (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 7 (12) 0 RABBIT RABBIT (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
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- 12 (12) 0 RABBIT RABBIT (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 13 (12) 0 RABBIT RABBIT (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 14 (12) 0 RABBIT RABBIT (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 15 (12) 0 RABBIT RABBIT (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson

- 2 0-JOHN SMITH'S LAGER NURSERY HANDICAP: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,504 (8 runners).
- 201 (5) 10 IRELAND STAY (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 202 (5) 10 IRELAND STAY (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 203 (5) 10 IRELAND STAY (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 204 (5) 10 IRELAND STAY (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
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- 214 (5) 10 IRELAND STAY (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 215 (5) 10 IRELAND STAY (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson

- 3 0-JOHN SMITH'S VAGABOND CUP (HANDICAP): 11m; £2,505 (15 runners).
- 301 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 302 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
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- 315 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson

- 3 35-VIRGATE STAKES: 3-Y-O; 7f; £2,506 (8 runners).
- 301 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 302 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
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- 315 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson

- 4 5-FISHERMAN STAKES: 3-Y-O; 7f; £2,507 (8 runners).
- 401 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 402 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
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- 414 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 415 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson

- 4 35-FOUNTAIN STAKES: 3-Y-O; 7f; £2,508 (8 runners).
- 401 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 402 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
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- 415 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson

- 4 45-CHARTINO (nb)
- 2 15 Old Hubert
- 2 45 Eagling
- 3 15 Ivorosi
- 3 45 Spice Market
- 4 15 Elid

DRAW: Low numbers best up to 14; above 14 denotes blinkers. **GOING:** Good.

- 1 45-JOHNIE WALKER RED LABEL STAKES: 3-Y-O; 7f; £2,509 (8 runners).
- 1 (12) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 2 (12) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 3 (12) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
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- 15 (12) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson

- 2 15-JOHNIE WALKER BLACK LABEL STAKES: 3-Y-O; 7f; £2,510 (8 runners).
- 2 (12) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 3 (12) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 4 (12) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
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- 15 (12) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson

- 3 15-GRAT FELL HANDICAP: 11m; £2,511 (15 runners).
- 301 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 302 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
- 303 (1) 010-241 PERIS (S. West) J. A. Stone 8-11 M. Hobson
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CHESS

Leonard Barden

FOLLOWING his rival Karpov's impressive victories over Kasparov and Andersson, world champion Anatoly Karpov attempts recovery next week from his disastrous and controversial end to the last title match. Karpov is among six

out
vice

DIARY

CIVIL servants in the Ministry of Defence have learned that Mr Peter Levene, Mr Michael Heseltine's £35,000-a-year private import, comes not alone but as a package. He brought his secretary with him. She will be paid £11,067 a year by Mr Levene's firm, United Scientific Holdings, who will reclaim it from the MoD. An equivalent Civil Service secretary would cost between £5,000 and £8,000, plus £1,300 London allowance. "Insult to injury," claim the Civil Service unions.

THIS week's City Limits magazine has two adverts on the same page. "Matreya the Christ is in London and Annals Recognition," reads one. "Hear Arthur Scargill," says the other. Both events are at the same time on the same day in the same place — Friends House, Euston Road.

DAVID HART, the Lord Lanchester, who was so active on behalf of the working miners, is also a novelist. The erstwhile high-living Times columnist-cum-Suffolk farmer-cum-Number 10 adviser, has penned a tale called Eagle, to be published next year by Muller. Blond and white, Eagle has two natures — man-nature and eagle-nature, beginning, and ending up the novel in a mental institution. Not a barrel of laughs by the sound of it, but there may be some fun to be drawn from the character of "Prime Minister Ebullient," him being a fond of our own real-life ebullient PM.

NEVILLE BEAL, the Conservative GLC member for Barnet, rings to insist (this column yesterday) that the GLC is not a "left-wing" body by no means emasculated and is possessed of what he calls "ample spherical pertinences." I ring Mr Livingstone's office with the news: "Ah, but it hasn't got a wositi," replies on the line. I put the line in touch with Mr Beal. These are not matters of this nature to become embroiled in.

THOSE KGB watchers who have been keeping a friendly eye on the 11 MPs from the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs during their Moscow jaunt had expected a quiet evening when the group was booked into the Bolshoi for the customary night of ballet. No such luck. Nigel Spearing, Labour MP for Newham S, who conceals the brain that is an Oxford Fellow in geography beneath a deceptively dogged exterior, had other plans in mind. A keen student of public transport, Comrade Spearing set off to explore the Moscow metro. All 10 lines, 200 kilometres, and 120 stations. It was this he paid the sum of five kopeks, or five pence. Mr Spearing much enjoyed his exploration. His efforts were less amused, doubtless convinced much more than collecting ammunition for the next debate on London Regional Transport.

THE MIRROR is searching for "Britain's super hunk" — our answer to Rambo — who will win a fortnight for two in Los Angeles. Wulffies, wimps and weaklings do not apply," continues the competition blurb. "Only REAL men read the Mirror." Oh yeah? What's the prize for three-quarter page ad for Builders doing ten pages later?

A PROMISING start to the competition to find the next apt Sun column by entries to imply. This one from Christopher Benfield of Manchester:

"Welcome to this weekly look at religion (but not away!) and how it affects our everyday lives. I am sure you do not think a Pope, he should be getting his message across in this way. But who would you rather spend a week on a deserted island with: Val Kilmer or Arthur Koestler?"

"Make 'em laugh, make 'em cry, I think you say, eh? So I listen to Murdoch when Sir Rupert Murdoch explain about expenses."

Or, there is the offering from Stanley Alderson from Cambridge:

"It is a great joy to speak to the many readers of Brother Sun. For indeed, the prayer of the young St Augustine shines out there. Give our readers chastity and continence — only not yet."

"Some have felt, however, that my presence there would be to me Ann Athena (Who she? Ed.), saying: 'I have seen all the works that are done under the Sun; and behold, all is vanity and vexation of the spirit.' Not so."

Next week: GOTCHA! or Catch the Devil by his Tail.

Alan Rusbridger

DR. WILFRED COXON is still angry. It is more than 40 years since he had his tussle with the wartime bureaucracy of the Ministry of Aircraft Production. The tussle concluded with the unforgiving powers-that-be trying unsuccessfully to stop him getting an official award for his wartime inventions. Since then the Official Secrets Act has gagged him.

At the age of 75 he has had enough. Sitting in his daughter's farmhouse in Dyfed he fumes at the thought of the young lives wasted in Bomber Command in the First half of the Second World War. In all, 55,573 men died in the 3,225 British bombers lost throughout the battle. It need not have been that many.

The limp hand of officialdom, he says wittily, delayed the introduction of the tools he developed to allow air crews accurately to carry out the grim job of destroying Nazi war production and to get away from the target quickly and safely.

He has decided it is time for the story to be told. "What can they do to me at my age?" muses. He is convinced that the system he battled against has changed little and that there cannot be enough public warnings about the nature of officialdom. He cites the blatant lies of the Falklands campaign to make his point about the unchanging nature of Whitehall.

In this age of satellites, inertial guidance, and other high-technology aids to navigation it is hard to credit the rudimentary way in which the bombers flew to their targets in the early stages of the 1939-45 war. Their stumbling progress produced incidents which would have been farcical had they not cost a number of innocent people their lives.

The first serious raid suffered by the Germans came in May 1940 when Freiburg was attacked in broad daylight. The 57 deaths included a group of children in a school playground. Local outrage was suddenly stifled when investigation showed that the attack had come not from the British but from Hitler's own aircraft, convinced they were bombing the French town of Mulhouse.

Nor was it only German navigation which could generate an error of 30 miles in a short daytime flight. The day after the war had started a British Wellington bomber attacked Esbjerg in neutral Denmark, 110 miles from its assigned target. Dr Coxon recalls how aircrews carrying out the early attacks on Germany had to steer by dead reckoning. After they had crossed the North Sea they had to check they were on the right course by looking out of the cockpit window to see if they could spot a complex of Dutch oil storage tanks.

Among the rest of the route they had to cross flares at regular intervals so they could pick out landmarks. A wonderful signal to the German air defence network of the bombers' progress.

The nature of the British air offensive against Germany had been laid down in a series of late thirties in a series of Cabinet documents called Western Air Plans, running from WA1 to WA16. They covered everything from bombing-gangster installations (WA1) to mining Germany's canals (WA16). The most significant plan turned out to be WA5 — the maximum possible reduction of the German war industry. Most of Britain's original air attack was based on that.

There was, however, a yawning gap between Cabinet aspirations and reality. The wavering strategic debate about the composition of the air force had so delayed orders for new aircraft that the largest element of Bomber Command was the single-engined Fairey Battle, a virtually useless machine which had failed most of its pre-production tests, and which the Air Council had wanted to scrap well before the war started. Officially, it was a "mistake," but how ever ensured that 3,100 of these light bombers had been built by the end of 1940.

As if these were not sufficient handicaps, there was the performance of the men flying these doubtful machines. Air Chief Marshal Sir Edgar Ludlow-Hewitt had told the Cabinet in July 1938 that given good weather, it would take 500 bombers averaging five flights each no more



Above: the ruins of Essen (the comparatively undamaged building in the background is the synagogue). Right: Dr Wilfred Coxon (picture by John Barnes). Below: the Mosquito, Spearhead of the Pathfinder Force

HAROLD JACKSON meets the inventor of a device which could have saved lives in Bomber Command

The unsung pathfinder



than one month to lay waste to the war production capacity of the Ruhr. It is hard to imagine the basis for this assessment.

A year previously a precision bombing exercise had found that the average crew missed its target by 250 yards, and that even the best performers rarely got nearer than 150 yards. Secret studies of Nazi bombing results in the Spanish civil war had shown that the standard 250lb and 500lb bombs then in service "had extraordinarily little power of penetration even when they actually hit the target."

The Air Ministry had resisted the development of specialised navigators until April, 1938, — on the classic Treasury argument that extra training would qualify them for a pay increase. Until then the maximum navigational skill was whatever the men could attain during a four-week course. The results showed up in various exercises. One dummy bombing mission on a crystal clear summer day over a large English city established that 40 per cent of the crews were incapable even of locating the target.

This was the climate in which Bomber Command entered the war. Given the rate of aircraft production, of crew training, and the maintenance needs of the force, strategic analysts had determined that losses of more than 5 per cent during continuous operations would cripple the command. By the time of the Dunkirk evacuation, daylight raids on the enemy (which offered the most favourable navigational conditions) had generated losses of 11.5 per cent. The 590 night raids over the same period had produced only a quarter that casualty rate. The logic was inexorable — future bomber attacks

took place under cover of darkness.

So, on the night of May 15, 1940, 99 British aircraft attacked oil refineries and railway facilities in the Ruhr, the first start of the Bomber Command offensive. Because no contemporary bomber was ever able to reach 300mph the region was chosen less for its military significance than that it represented the longest return shortening spring nights. This pragmatic approach also decreed that pilots were allowed to pick their own take-off and arrival time and the height at which they released their bombs.

The results claimed by the air crews in the post-attack debriefing usually sounded good. But they were hardly borne out by the subsequent photo-reconnaissance. The truth was that the airmen had little if any idea what they had hit: the photos disclosed that only about 5 per cent of the listed targets suffered significant damage, a pattern which persisted for more than two years.

In August 1941 an official bombing survey of 100 major raids revealed that only about 30 per cent of 4,065 aircraft had come within five miles of their designated aiming point. The Air Ministry decreed that precision bombing "is beyond Bomber Command's capabilities."

Yet the problem had been foreseen as long as eight years before when the Operational Requirements Branch of the Air Ministry had called for the development of a target indicator bomb, a long-range flare to be dropped at the start of an attack as the marker for all the following aircraft. By giving the crews an easily visible aiming point this would not only increase the

accuracy of their attack but cut down the time they had to spend over the target and therefore the casualty rate.

Yet no one seemed able to find the answer to this basic — and evidently crippling — gap in the bombers' arsenal, though there was no lack of imaginative suggestions. Someone in the civil service proposed that a giant Roman candle be dropped, to sputter away on the target as the planes homed in. Those actually flying the missions wondered how they would see the candle if it fell inside a large building, how it was supposed to stay upright when it hit concrete, and how quickly the Germans would work out a way of smothering it or putting their own decoy candle in the middle of open country.

The discussion bogged down in an endless war of memoranda. On March 27, 1939, six months after Munich and with war clearly inevitable, Air Commodore John Slessor, the RAF's Director of Plans, sent a note to the Director of Operational Requirements, Air Commodore Robert Saundby, saying: "I would be grateful if you could let me know what progress has been made with marker bombs since 1937."

Saundby's answer came back on April 5: "You will remember that the informal discussion you called in October 1938 to review aids to night bombing did not result in any recommendations regarding marker bombs."

He nonetheless reviewed the latest position: "A. The parachute flare is of very limited value. B. The incendiary bomb used as a mark is also not very much use. C. The projected flare has yet to be tried but I am not very hopeful as to its utility."

On May 19, Whitehall moved in its own inimitable way:

"D of Ops (For the attention of Wg Cdr Mills). D of Plans (For the attention of Sq Ldr Bennett), DSD (For the attention of Wg Cdr Brown). Following our informal discussion yesterday I have decided to open a new file on this subject."

On June 15 an early entry in the new file came from Wing Commander Brown. "At present," he wrote, "Bomber Command can only guarantee an accuracy of five miles at night so that anything which can improve on this is acceptable."

The files read like an Ealing comedy script, except that air crews were being shot out of the sky by the increasingly effective German air defences. The British planes had to spend up to 30 minutes flying around trying to locate their target. Their bombing became almost a total waste of time as they were forced by the anti-aircraft fire to release their loads from greater and greater heights.

No one in the Air Ministry had envisaged bombing from above 10,000 feet and Bomber Command's standard ballistic tables were calculated from the performance of the 11lb practice bomb dropped from markedly lower heights. They were hardly appropriate to the conditions of real life. Dr Coxon, fresh from lecturing in chemistry at the Regent Street Polytechnic, had already had a fight with the Ministry's establishment over his development of a new photographic flare, though it eventually helped to document the lamentably poor results of the bombing offensive.

He now hit a new barrier in the increasingly urgent search for a successful target

indicator. The Air Staff specification required the marker to be visible for ten miles from 15,000 feet and to burn for 15 to 30 minutes. It was also to fit the bomb racks used for the existing 250lb bomb. The effort to produce a workable version carried on through the first year of the war but failed miserably in part because of the inadequacy of the available flares.

The Ordnance Board evaluation concluded that "The flare as designed at present would take a very long time to produce. Moreover it is hard to see how it could be simplified if it is to meet requirements." The Board recommended, therefore, that the Air Staff be asked to reconsider the requirement before further design work is put in hand.

That set the bureaucratic pattern. The failure of the official attempt led to the inescapable conclusion that the task must be impossible. On June 18, 1940 Bomber Command muttered grimly "Marker bombs should be deleted from the present list of operational requirements." The mood coloured all future discussions of the project, though there were tricky political problems.

Churchill had developed a personal interest in the project and Dr Coxon's boss, Charles Lea, noted wryly in an official memorandum that "it will be necessary to inform the Chief of Air Staff that we recommend the abandonment of the pyrotechnic marker bomb, since it was originated by the Prime Minister."

Dr Coxon, meanwhile, started conducting his own, totally unauthorised, experiments — a rash step for a young, recently arrived technical officer in the Directorate of Armament Develop-

ment. He discovered a hoard of empty 250 lb gas bomb cases which he stuffed with the business ends of several incendiary bombs. In June 1941 a ground-based experiment at Boscombe Down showed that exploding the incendiaries from the casing produced a fiery oval pattern easily seen from the spotter aircraft.

The solo official response to the experiment was a reprimand for carrying out unauthorised testing. There was also a more practical problem — the standard air-burst fuses then available could not function above 10,000 feet. Dr Coxon discussed the problem with an engineer friend, Mr Jack Imber, master of the Aladdin paraffin heater and originator of pink paraffin.

Imber invented a new fuse which not only did the job but was far easier to manufacture than those in use. The new fuse went into the weapons used later in the war. But because they relied on combustion these Imber fuses could not operate in the thin atmosphere above 10,000 feet. Imber then developed a barometric fuse which quickly went into operational use in spite of an official appreciation from the Ordnance Board declaring that it was based on unsound principles and could not possibly work.

The successful clandestine test of the barometric fuse at Boscombe Down, carried out with the help of a photo-reconnaissance unit commander who was officially testing flares, generated a huge row in which Dr Coxon was formally charged with carrying out secret trials which endangered the aircraft and its crew. The reconnaissance commander's sympathetic evidence got the charge dropped, but the atmosphere remained poisonous.

This impasse might well have lasted for the rest of the war had not an RAF observer, surveying a raid on Essen on March 5, 1942, commented in his official report: "I was extremely disappointed at the dispersed nature of our attack. I was, however, greatly impressed by the appearance from the air of a free stick of incendiaries attached to a falling aircraft. If similar sticks of incendiary bombs could be given a distinctive colour or colours they would form an ideal marker bomb."

Dr Coxon made one more effort to get his invention adopted through official channels and, being blocked yet again with the declaration that there was "no operational requirement" for the device, disclosed what was going on in an unofficial visit to Air Commodore S. O. Butten, deputy director of Bomber Operations.

On March 18, 1942, Butten put in a formal request that the marker bomb be restored to the RAF's operational requirements list. At the end of the month Dr Coxon had been given a free hand to develop his invention. In early July the marker was successfully demonstrated to Churchill's science adviser, Lord Kelvin, and to senior air force staff.

On July 7, a memorandum went out to the Assistant Chief of Air Staff. "We require the highest possible priority production at the rate of 500 per month to maximum per week. Dr Coxon of RDA/MS is, I understand, in a position to arrange for this on receiving a semi-production order."

With the tool finally available for the job, Air Commodore Butten set the pace to create the Pathfinder Force, formally established on August 11, 1942. At 8.58 pm on March 5, 1943, a Mosquito aircraft of the force dropped 100 of target indicators from 30,000 feet above the Krupp factory in Essen. Within 40 minutes more than 600 acres of the plant had been laid waste by 400 incendiary bombs. Fifteen of the planes were shot down — a casualty rate of 3.5 per cent. Bomber Command's strike efficiency went from five per cent to 60 per cent.

Extract from the evidence of Air Marshal Sir Robert Saundby to the Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors, February 10, 1948:

"The importance of the marker bomb to our subsequent operations can hardly be over-estimated. It was, in fact, the keystone in the chain of all Pathfinder techniques."

And when William Makepeace Thackeray created the most selfless character in English literature who loves and is deserted, but never allows his devotion to waver, the nickname by which he is known is Dobbin.

I suppose that the irrational affection for horses, which characterises sane adults who have spent all their lives in cities, is the result of childhood indoctrination. We were rocked on them. We are promised rides on their plebeian half brothers when we went for a summer's week by the sea. In our picture books, they carried the heroes of the empire, won the West, and pulled the crepe-draped gun carriages on days of royal mourning. The Light Brigade would not have travelled half a league onward without them. And the stories which we read about pit ponies were stories of hard work and sacrifice. No wonder that Lloyds Bank want to associate themselves in the public mind with a horse.

That great black stallion is, of course, very unlike a

bank in its character and behaviour. It runs wild and free over the open countryside, pausing only to exhibit its perfect profile from a vantage point on the skyline. But by its behaviour it associates the cheque books and overdrafts with the rural longings which are said to bubble about inside all city dwellers. It also produces subconscious thoughts of power and status. For horses are the preserve of the privileged. Peasants walk, which, no doubt, accounts for the middle class obsession with hard hats, feedbags and knee-high boots. My only wish is that they would keep their horses out of the cities where I spend my time.

I recall being out to lunch one Sunday with the John Newsome, author of the report on primary education which bore his name. Halfway through the soup, two horses appeared outside the urban window. "I trust," said Sir John, "that they come from a circus. I should not like to be in the sort of suburb where people ride."

Amen to that.

ENDPIECE

Roy Hattersley

UNTIL last weekend, it had been my good fortune to avoid close contact with horses. Driven to excess by years of wartime austerity, my father occasionally asked me to nip out into the field, with pan and brush, and col-

lect what he coyly called "the mare," dropped by the milkman's pail. And during the re-creation of Camelot which was the last Labour Government, I could see from my seat at the Cabinet table the troop of Household Cavalry which made its way back to Knightsbridge Barracks at eleven o'clock each morning with bugles blowing, guidon flying, and coats carefully draped over the tanks across which they sat. But I never actually "bumped" into a horse.

But last Saturday, one bumped into me — quite intentionally. On being introduced, I had stepped politely forward to greet it. My gesture of goodwill was immediately reciprocated with what I can only describe as an old-fashioned shoulder charge. But it was not that single act of unprovoked aggression which prejudiced me against the beast. Horses — as I discovered from close quarters — are ridiculous in themselves. Only the genius of a Stubbs could make them look so elegant. Delacour

painted them as the prancing partners of martial triumph. But that was because he saw la gloire in everything. Horses are intrinsically funny looking.

The bovine-horse which assaulted me, was, his handler assured me, a prince among horses. It had spindly legs and veins which ran so close to the skin that I feared they would pop out. But these apparent defects were described as signs of breeding — not emaciation, and I was urged to examine its "good mouth." This splendid feature was set in a muzzle which I patted in the way which I know is much appreciated by dogs. It emitted exactly the sound which is produced by knocking on wood. The result was not, for me, the good fortune which that action is supposed to bring. The horse stood on my foot.

I found it impossible to continue the conversation. With dogs, I can talk for hours. Discussing the way they have spent their day chasing imaginary rabbits, sniffing at the foot of lamp

posts, and rolling in whatever decaying substances they can find. But horses do none of these interesting things. They just stand about waiting to be climbed on and ridden off. Horses, I have now decided, are imbued with a single virtue — they have a highly-developed flair for public relations.

Putting aside the depressing large proportion of the population which seeks out the company of horses, because equine companionship demonstrates membership of the middle classes, horses are popular because of the false image of themselves which they have insinuated into our literature. Black Beauty is beaten by the coal-heaver who originally owned her. The dream house in Crime and Punishment personifies (or horifies) the man to whom man is inhuman. Scarlet O'Hara whips her horse into coronary collapse and the audience at the matinee of Gona With The Wind forget about Atlanta being burned to the ground and its citizens being harried by Sherman's victorious army. All that matters is the heaving flanks and rolling eyes between the shafts.

Browning told us that whatever the good news, it was carried from Aix to Ghent, the horses which carried the men who carried it expired in devoted exhaustion as soon as their essential work was done. If he had gone on to explain that the avaricious French sold their carcasses for

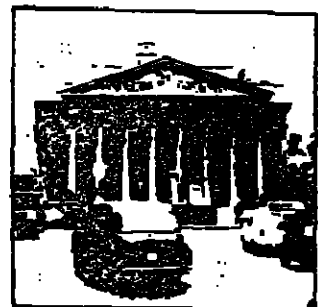
human consumption, he would not have been the sort of man whom Elizabeth Barrett was prepared to marry.

Have you ever heard of a cowboy being betrayed by his palomino, or a damsel in distress being deserted by her palmy? Admittedly Alice's White Knight was always being thrown from the saddle. But the Knight was Gladstone and the horse was Ireland — so the usual rules do not apply.

The usual rules are that literary horses are kind and gentle. They do not exploit; they are exploited. Black Beauty is beaten by the coal-heaver who originally owned her. The dream house in Crime and Punishment personifies (or horifies) the man to whom man is inhuman. Scarlet O'Hara whips her horse into coronary collapse and the audience at the matinee of Gona With The Wind forget about Atlanta being burned to the ground and its citizens being harried by Sherman's victorious army. All that matters is the heaving flanks and rolling eyes between the shafts.

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Does the merger of building societies foreshadow home loan big brothers?



NOTEBOOK

Edited by
Peter Rodgers

IF TWO building societies are both very large and very successful, like the Nationwide and Woolwich, what is to be gained from putting them together?

Mr Tim Melville-Ross, who will become chief executive

of the merged society, said "sheer size and strength" are vital for societies which plan to throw themselves wholeheartedly into the broader financial services and banking arena to be opened up by new legislation. Bigger resources make large investments in technology, people and products that much easier.

The Nationwide already has more branches in relation to its size than any other society and the "Woolwich Nationwide" would have 950 if it failed to rationalise, which would be 200 more than the Halifax, the largest society in terms of deposits.

Rank and position are important to building societies. Even the mighty Halifax, Abbey National which is in second position, would not tolerate losing its pre-eminence.

How much more must the Nationwide, which although number three is only half the size of the Abbey, want

to strengthen its position. After all, the Alliance and Leicester building societies are creating a new number four society right behind it.

What the merged London societies will gain most visibly is power to influence interest rates. Until now, even the Halifax and Abbey combined do not have the size to go their own way on rates when they want a reduction.

Savers are extraordinarily rate conscious these days (encouraged by the societies' own extensive advertising campaigns) and if one society started paying less, even for a couple of weeks, the rush on the society to withdraw would be calamitous.

The possibility of the Halifax, Abbey and "Woolwich Nationwide" acting together is a new development for the industry. These three will have a combined share of 51 per cent of the market. They will be in a strong position to dictate building society interest rates.

If, as the "Woolwich Na-

tionwide" insists, all this is essential to viability, what of those lesser societies which cannot join the giants? Tim Melville-Ross forecasts that eventually there will be only eight or 10 "mega-societies" and a scattering of small local ones.

This will make for a few very powerful individuals, who could control not only what we pay for our houses but where and how we live. The Office of Fair Trading, which is currently looking at the proposed merger to establish if there is any monopoly problem, should bear this in mind.

Implied threat

JOHNSON Matthey Plc has done marginally better than anybody expected, so why did it get away with paying only a £30 million once and for all contribution to the losses of its subsidiary Johnson Matthey Bankers? After all, its share price valued it

at £126 million last night. Yet as taxpayers are contributing £24 million towards the losses, and the same again is to be paid from the profits of City banks. Surely Johnson Matthey could have afforded the lot?

Market capitalisation is in fact a rather misleading way of looking at whether the company could afford more. It reflects, of course, the happy circumstance (for shareholders) that the payment was a final one. The key to how much it could actually afford on that fateful day in October lies rather with the borrowings, which show a different picture altogether.

The £50 million payment, added to the loss of JMB's entire £102 million capital and reserves, knocked the parent company's reserves from £198 million to £28 million over the year to the end of March. Its net assets, the value of the company when its assets and liabilities are

set against each other, amounted to only £205 million at the end of March, after a considerable amount of reconstruction work. Borrowings however were £227 million, after paying off £51 million since January and reducing drawings on a £250 million standby loan arranged in October to zero.

Therefore it was still looking vulnerable and has just raised some more cash to ease its situation. Back in October, the picture was far worse. The reason why major shareholder Charter Consolidated stepped in to help was that Johnson Matthey simply could not find even £50 million in cash to pay the Bank of England without help from Charter, which agreed to take a larger shareholding.

The threat therefore was a three level one. Charter would not get deeper involved if Johnson Matthey had an open ended commitment to meeting JMB losses. Johnson Matthey believed it would go into receivership if

this was the case, and if it got no help from its main shareholder, which would leave the Bank of England with an even bigger mess on its hands.

A number of the City bankers who have since had to pay part of JMB's losses believe that there was also an implied threat of a much more brutal kind. Amazingly, more brutal than anything the letter of the law entitled Johnson Matthey to walk away from the debts of its subsidiary and leave it to rot. Unpopular though it would have been for ever more, this might have happened if it had been the only way to survive.

All very difficult to argue against, except for one point: why could not the Bank of England have been given rights to a stake in the enlarged equity of Johnson Matthey Plc. The cost would have been merely a dilution of the stake of existing shareholders, but the reward would be share in the recovery which could have

paid back the taxpayers. After all, the share price has already risen by half since the low point.

Whoa, there

CONSTERNATION turned to relief at the City as W. L. Carr (Overseas) also known as the City as Wico — when the City's team of talented analysts realised why it had done so badly in the prestigious "Ranking of UK Investment Analysts". This 210-page copy "Top of the Pops" showed the team placed no better than third in the Far Eastern section where it usually shines. But look at the version with show re-printed as the winner in the Hong Kong and South East Asian sections and second in Japan. A case where unity was strength.

Disappointing half-year results throw stock market into confusion

Britoil sell-off likely to be a cliff-hanger

By John Hooper,

Energy Correspondent

Britoil yesterday set a pose for the City and the Chancellor, simultaneously releasing a disappointing set of half-yearly results and a rosy forecast for end-of-year profits and dividends.

At the end of this month, the Treasury is expected to offer for sale its remaining stake in the company worth almost £500 million. Judging by yesterday's news, it is going to be a cliff-hanger.

The stock market's confusion was reflected in the way that Britoil's share price bobbed up and down during the day. Opening at 216p, it plummeted to 205p, jumped back to 211p, and then closed at 208p — 7p below the level at which the government sold its first block in November, 1982.

At first sight, the results are disappointing. City analysts had been predicting an after-

tax profit of £100 million or over. Britoil could only manage £91.4 million, and that was despite the fact that throughout the period sliding dollar oil prices were more than compensated for by the fall in the pound. The interim dividend is to be 4p.

There again, Sir Philip Sherbourne's company has perhaps the most conservative accounting methods of any British oil company and last year's half-yearly results are not necessarily an indication of a poor 12-month performance.

In a glossy preliminary prospectus aimed at the small investor, Britoil forecast that it would increase its annual profit from £109 to £190 million and be able to declare a dividend of 13p.

This forecast, however, is based on an assumption that the average sterling realisation of a barrel of oil during the coming six months will be £20.

With the pound at \$1.39 and the cost of a barrel of Brent down to \$26.50 yesterday, the real figure — for the moment at least — is closer to £19.

Worse, the linkage between the rate of sterling and the price of oil which has sheltered British oil companies from the international oil price slump has been broken recently. Until about a month ago each fall in the dollar price of oil had been accompanied by an even greater proportional fall in the rate of the pound to the dollar, and this had the effect of boosting the value to the companies of each barrel they sold when its price was translated from dollars into sterling.

As an extra sweetener, it was disclosed yesterday that existing shareholders will be given preference in the allocation on the basis of one share for every five held immediately before impact day.



Sir Philip Sherbourne sets a pose for Chancellor Lawson

Coups for Kleinwort Benson

By Margaret Pagan,

City Correspondent

The City revolution's game of musical chairs resumed yesterday when Kleinwort Benson revealed it had recruited a senior team of equity dealers from jobbers Wedd, Durlacher, now part of the Barclays, De Zoete, Wedd securities house.

There is just a hint of revenge in the coup since it was only a few weeks ago that BZW pulled off a masterly stroke by enticing one of Kleinwort's vice-chairmen, Mr

Martin Jacob, to head up the new BZW groupings.

Mr Jacob is believed to have tried to persuade Kleinwort to do a deal with Wedd, Durlacher early on in the City revolution before it had joined up with Barclays. Instead, it chose brokers Grievson, Grant. This was not, however, the reason for his departure.

The Wedd team, led by two senior partners, three other partners, and three "marzipan" traders, will be joining Grievson's new equity market-

making operation. The two senior partners are, Mr Charles Hue Williams, who will be bringing his oil sector traders, and Mr William Mellen. They will not be joining Kleinwort's until next April under partnership agreements but the others join next month.

Kleinwort and Grievson have yet to decide how large the equity market-maker will be or how many it will employ. The Wedd team will be in charge of building up the enterprise.

Hattersley wants 'public sector balance sheet'

By Christopher Huhne,

Labour Correspondent

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, yesterday proposed a radical change in the government's targeting of the "bizarre and unique" borrowing requirement and its replacement by a range of more relevant indicators of the state's economic influence.

In an important speech which breaks new policy ground, Mr Hattersley outlined a key part of Labour's alternative strategy towards the financial markets and has aligned himself with some of the most sophisticated of the new Keynesian economists.

Among his suggestions is that the government should publish each year a public sector balance sheet which would allow the markets to assess the government like a company — by looking not only at its borrowing and liabilities but at its assets.

His scathing attack on the government's "mystical belief" in crude targets and its sale of public assets pointed

out that either taxes will have to go up again or public spending be cut once the sale of assets dries up.

The main thrust of Mr Hattersley's argument at a Financial Times conference was that increased state borrowing would not in itself raise interest rates, which were high because of the government's desire to maintain a strong pound.

Nor would it "crowd out" private sector activity unless the economy was approaching full employment of resources. Supporting monetary and other policies could ensure that there was no inflation resulting from increased borrowing.

Mr Hattersley intends to spell out Labour's plans for nominal targets — effectively for controlling inflation — in the autumn. The maintenance of international confidence required a convincing borrowing policy, but discipline would be exercised by reference to the ratio of government debt to national output.

Unions urge BT to buy British

By David Simpson,

Business Correspondent

The three main white-collar unions, the ASTMS, Tass Apex, yesterday joined together to launch a campaign to persuade British Telecom to buy British to stem a possible flood of job losses in the UK telecommunications industry.

The unions' move has been provoked both by reductions in the BT level of orders for the new System X digital exchanges produced by GEC and by Plessey, and by the award in March of an order to Thorn-Ericsson for the second generation of digital exchanges which will largely be manufactured overseas.

The unions are particularly concerned at growing speculation that GEC and Plessey are considering merging their telecommunications divisions to counter the falling level of BT orders for System X and the

companies' failure to market the system successfully overseas. A merger, they believe, would lead to substantial redundancies.

The ASTMS national officer, Mr Tim Webb, said yesterday that the white-collar unions would seek to involve the telecommunications industry's manual unions in their campaign, which will include lobbying MPs. It is hoped that all workers at the UK's three main exchange suppliers to BT, Plessey, GEC and STC, will join the campaign.

Mr Webb also said that a meeting would be sought with the chairman of BT, Sir George Jefferson. At a meeting with the BT chairman two years ago, the group pledged itself to buy British equipment unless it was technically impossible. Mr Webb said, but the decision to place the Thorn-Ericsson order had breached that agreement.

Johnson Matthey counts cost

By Margaret Pagan,

City Correspondent

THE Johnson Matthey Bankers' fiasco cost Johnson Matthey, the precious metals chemicals group, £152 million in extraordinary charges.

These extraordinary losses over the once and all £50 million payment to JMB when it was nationalised by the Bank of England last year and the write-off of assets in JMB of £102 million. Total losses of £176.3 million include further costs associated with the closure of JMB's US jewellery operation for £16.5 million and another £8.6 million to pay for refinancing and reorganisation.

News of the losses came with far better than expected full year results for year to March. At the pre-tax level profits fell sharply to £20.1 million but were some £4 million higher than the most pessimistic market forecasts.

Last year pre-tax profit was £26.6 million. This left losses attributable to shareholders at £164.9 million against losses last time of £18.7 million. Shares in JM responded with a 12p rise to 95p where the group is valued at around £120 million.

JM has managed to trim its debt levels since hitting off JMB. It has cut borrowings from £162.9 million while the controversial rights issue in December reduced money borrowings by another £24 million. In the last quarter of the year net money borrowings were cut another £51 million to £227 million.

All drawings under the special £250 million standby facility were repaid at the end of the financial year. The refinancing agreement is due to run out at the end of this month and JM is well into discussions with its bankers about new medium facilities. JM has also tied up, in principle, a private placing with institutions of £25 million of floating rate debt in the range of 110p to 120p a share over five years.

Shares sold for £22.5 million at £45.3 million.

Small rise in RPI cheers government

By Christopher Huhne,

Economics Editor

A small rise in retail prices of only 0.2 per cent over the months to June left the annual inflation rate unchanged at 7 per cent, much to the relief of ministers who had been bracing themselves for worse.

Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, said there might be a slight rise in the annual rate in July but there should be a "turning point" with the August figures likely to show a significant fall.

The low monthly increase in prices reflects both the bunching of price rises earlier in the year and the recent rebound of sterling, which has led to four months of declining raw materials prices for companies.

It now seems possible that the inflation rate, which has increased from 4.6 per cent in December, may have peaked — if last year's 0.1 per cent drop in prices due to seasonal factors can be matched this month.

The rise in prices in August is almost certain to go to be less than last year's 0.9 per cent rise, which was boosted by an increase in the mortgage rate. So the annual rate should fall back sharply.

Employment Department officials said yesterday that the government is still sticking to its budget forecast of 5 per cent inflation rate in the fourth quarter, though this may prove rather more difficult to attain than a more modest reversal.

Strong sterling itself cuts imports prices, and may also allow further cuts in interest

rates and thus the retail price index. But there are still concerns, recently expressed by the Bank of England, that the recent spurt of inflation may have encouraged the upward drift of wage settlements.

In addition, firms are less able to absorb such cost rises since productivity growth has slowed down, although not quite as speedily on recently revised figures as the earlier series suggested.

Britain is now once again near the top of the international league table on inflation, with the 7 per cent rate in May exceeded only by Sweden (8.2 per cent), Italy (9.4 per cent), Spain (10.2 per cent) and Greece (17 per cent) among the developed industrial countries.

Britain's major trade rivals all have lower inflation rates, resulting in a loss of competitiveness for British producers unless the exchange rate of the pound is allowed to fall. The recent rise in the pound, though good news on inflation, is bad news for growth and jobs.

The latest figures, one of the highest of the year, is also good news for British Telecom shareholders, since the company is allowed to raise its prices by the June inflation rate minus 3 percentage points.

The official tax and price index which measures the rise in pre-tax pay needed to keep up with prices rose by 6.4 per cent over the year to June while average earnings in the year to April — the latest figures — rose by 6.4 per cent once distortions are ironed out.

Pasta war averted

From Alex Scott,

In Brussels

A major dispute between the EEC and the US over trade in pasta seems to have been avoided as a result of a political agreement reached yesterday between the two sides. As a result, the EEC is set to reduce export subsidies on pasta to the US and the US has agreed to drop a long running complaint to GATT.

Under the agreement reached between the EEC Trade Commissioner, Mr Willy de Clercq, and the US trade representative, Mr Clayton Yeutter, there will be a four-month moratorium in the dispute over EEC exports of pasta to the US. Half of US imports of pasta came from the EEC, the vast majority from Italy.

US restrictions on pasta imports were due to come into force a week ago, and the EEC was on the point of bringing in retaliatory measures to increase import tariffs on lemons and wine from the US this weekend, until the agreement was reached.

In spite of new moves by the EEC to defuse problems over trade in steel, tensions between the two sides remain high. On Monday, the US administration is threatening to go ahead with sweeping increases in tariffs on a wide range of EEC steel exports, in the face of an ever-increasing trade deficit with the outside world.

Debenhams revalued

By Geoffrey Gibbs

Debenhams eagerly awaited property revaluation has produced a surplus of only £7.5 million over book values.

The department stores combine which is fighting a £400 million takeover bid from the Burton Group disclosed last night that the valuation carried out by Conrad Ribbitt and Co showed an aggregate UK property value of £275.32 million. Overseas properties have been valued by the directors at £708,000.

The valuation, which compares with a combined book value of just under £288.5 million, met with a storm of derision from the Burton camp which, under the City's takeover rules, has until the end of next week to decide whether or not to raise its offer.

In their formal defence document the Debenhams directors headed by Mr Robert Thornton listed the group's "valuable portfolio of freehold and long leasehold properties" as one of the group's strengths. Instant reaction from Burton last night was that an appreciation of 1 per cent per annum in the value of the portfolio was "not much of a return".

Mr Thornton last night again urged shareholders to reject Burton's share and cash offer. He claimed the current share price was well supported by the group's profit and dividend forecasts.

Miquel comes out fighting as bell rings

By Geoffrey Gibbs

The battle for the future of Scotch whisky distiller Arthur Bell and Sons was joined in earnest yesterday as claim and counter-claim, insult and counter-insult flew between the company and unwelcome bidders Guinness.

Guinness, which launched a £300 million takeover offer for the Perth-based company last month, fired off the first volley in the shape of a letter to Bell's shareholders arguing that the Bell's board had lost its way and did not have the management capability to develop the business in the 1980s and beyond.

The letter was designed to steal the thunder of Bell's formal defence document which duly appeared with the promise of a big increase in divi-

dends and the dismissal of the Guinness offer as "wholly inadequate and unacceptable".

Guinness parried by repeating its assertion that Bell's UK market share had been falling consistently for five years and that the group did not have an effective export strategy. The assertions about Guinness contained in the defence document were, Guinness added, "totally irrelevant and misleading".

After weighing up the evidence as presented the stock market lifted Guinness shares 4p to 280p and clipped 2p off the Bell's price to 231p. On that basis Bell shares are still out of reach of the Guinness offer — now worth 225p.

In rejecting the offer Bell's chairman Mr Raymond Miquel predicts an increase in divi-

dends for the year to June 1985 "in the order of 50 per cent". Though giving no precise figure he repeats his earlier forecast that profits for the year while UK sales of the £35.2 million reported a year ago.

He said whisky exports had increased by 19 per cent during the year while UK sales of Bell's Extra Special — the UK market leader — were up by 5 per cent in the first six months of 1985.

Sniping at the bidders' own performance he alleged that Guinness's new management under chief executive Ernest Saunders had failed to improve brewing margins and that the group's share of the British beer market declined from 4.9 per cent to 4.2 per cent last year.



Ernest Saunders (left) and Raymond Miquel... locked in battle

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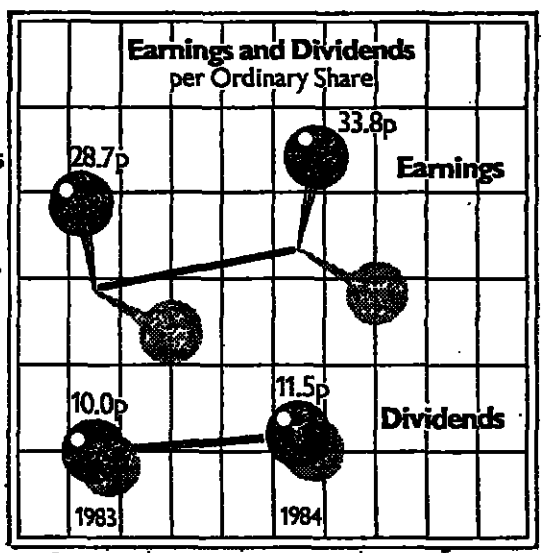
THE M&G GROUP

Britoil has the largest company on the U was involved in dr more than anyone

It has interests in the U.S. and worldwide reser

Look what's happened at Britoil since the Government sold 51% of its shares.

In 1984 Britoil's pre tax profits rose by 17% to £688,000,000. After tax profits rose from £143,000,000 to £169,000,000. In 1984 Britoil's earnings per Ordinary Share rose from 28.7p to 33.8p and net Dividends per Ordinary Share rose by 15% to 11.5p.



Britoil has the largest net exploration acreage of any company on the UK Continental Shelf. Last year Britoil was involved in drilling 48 new wells in the North Sea - more than anyone else.

In November 1982, Britoil became a publicly quoted company when the Government sold 51% of its shares to the public. Since then Britoil's achievements have been most impressive.

Britoil is one of the country's leading oil and gas companies. And it's one of the world's largest companies engaged primarily in exploration and production.

It has the greatest share of North Sea exploration acreage and a growing spread of overseas interests.

Now the government has decided to offer its remaining shares for sale.

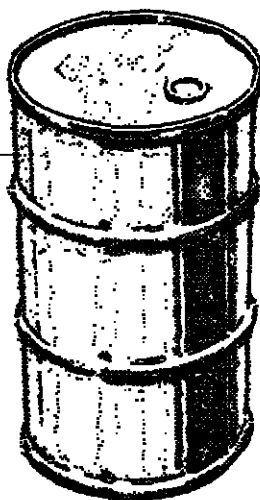
And, as in the past, it intends to give private individuals, not just City institutions, a full opportunity to apply for shares. That's why the Britoil offer is being widely publicised.

Subject to market conditions the offer is planned for the end of July.

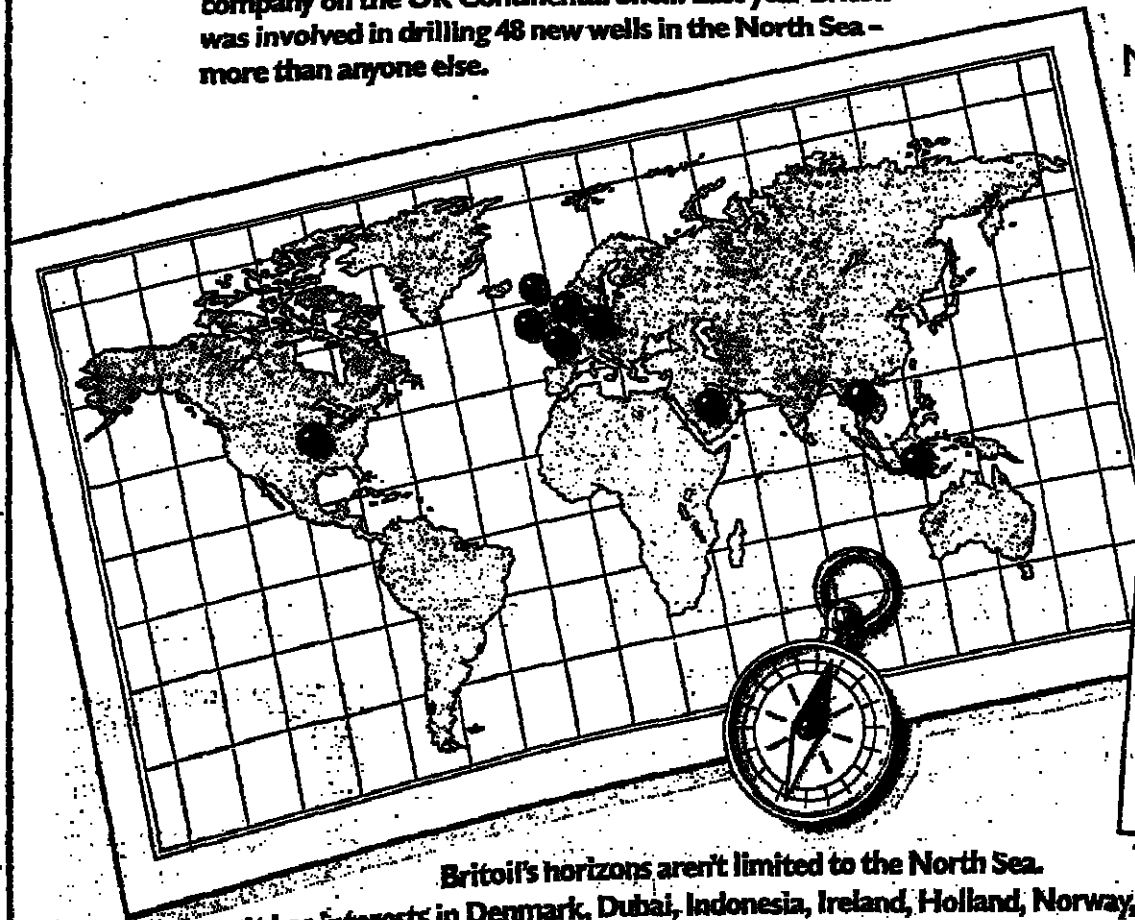
There will be just seven days in which to make an application for shares.

The Offer for Sale document and application form will be published in National Newspapers. Documents will also be available from all branches of National Westminster Bank, Barclays Bank and the Bank of Scotland.

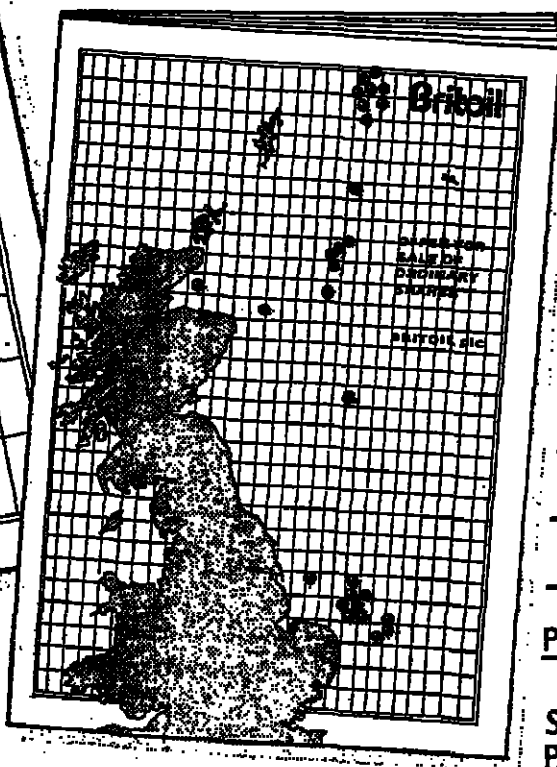
But you can ensure you receive an application form and a copy of the Offer for Sale as soon as they are available simply by filling in this coupon.



Last year Britoil produced 61,000,000 barrels of oil - nearly 6,000,000 gallons a day. In 1984 Britoil produced 69 billion cubic feet of gas.



Britoil's horizons aren't limited to the North Sea. It has interests in Denmark, Dubai, Indonesia, Ireland, Holland, Norway, Thailand and the U.S. And its overseas interests are expanding. At the end of 1984 Britoil's worldwide reserves stood at 554,000,000 barrels of oil and 916 billion cubic feet of gas.



Please send me more information about Britoil and reserve my copy of the Offer For Sale document, without obligation.

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GDN 18/7

Send to: Britoil plc,
P.O. Box 5000, Bristol, BS99 1GB.

Britoil

SOON, THE REMAINING 49% OF BRITIL SHARES ARE TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE.

Issued by Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited on behalf of H.M. Government.

Margaret Dibben explains how to get richer every month without thinking about it

A fiver today pays dividends tomorrow

IF YOU invest £5 a month, a sum you will hardly miss, after ten years you could have £1,000. That might not seem big business, so if you increase the monthly payment to £10, in ten years time this could grow to £20,000.

The point about regular savings is that you get into the habit of budgeting for a certain outflow each month and soon do not think about the money. Children can be encouraged into the savings habit by putting away as little as £1 a month. If you know you have a particular expense looming in the future — a car, a holiday, a wedding — you can save towards that date.

No one will tell you exactly how much your contributions will be worth at the end of ten years although anyone trying to sell you a regular savings scheme will make a good guess. The nearest you can get to knowing for certain what you will have in the future is with National Savings fixed interest certificates where the rates of interest are guaranteed for five years.

Higher risk investments will suggest even larger sums of money at the end of 10 years and this is where you take the risk you might get more or you might get less. Moreover, on these investments you will almost certainly be paying commission

charges which will eat away at your eventual payout.

Nearly every form of investment has an option for regular monthly savings, some taking as low as £1 a month but more likely £10 or £20 a month and possibly with a maximum of around £200 a month.

Before going ahead with a scheme, you should ask what sort of commitment you are letting yourself in for; if there are any penalties if you miss a payment; how long you have to keep up the payments; if there are any costs to you; what sort of risk you are taking; if you can have access to any of your money while continuing the scheme (you may be allowed one withdrawal a year, for example).

A small change in interest rates can make a large difference to your savings over a number of years. If you saved £20 a month, Table 1 shows how much you would have at different rates of interest.

For varying monthly contributions, see the Nationwide Building Society produces a table which assumes an interest rate throughout the period of 9.25 per cent (see Table 2).

Many banks and building societies have special regular savings schemes, although there is no reason why you should not make monthly, or even less frequent, payments regularly into most accounts.

Rates of interest are not as good as those being paid on the top notch accounts, but should be about 1 per cent better than the basic bank account rate. This makes it around 9.25 per cent net of basic rate tax of 13.21 per cent grossed up.

Typically you will be allowed one withdrawal a year without any loss of interest and you can close them completely at any time you choose.

You can also invest regularly in other building society schemes: guaranteed mortgage schemes which tend to pay a comparatively low rate of interest and have little point at present because mortgages are easily available. Some societies also have Save As You Earn schemes with fixed terms.

You save between £1 and £20 a month for five years after which you will receive a bonus worth 14 months' contributions. This makes the rate of interest over the period 8.3 per cent a year. If you leave the money for another 14 months, there is no limit on how much you can put in. You can stop making payments whenever you wish but if you choose a time when the value of your units is low

but does not compare well with other schemes. Should you stop making payments in the first year, you will have your money returned but with no interest. If you fail to keep up the contributions after that, you will get interest on the amount you have paid in at six per cent.

National Savings' Yearly Plan was created a year ago as a way of making regular contributions towards a savings certificate. This week the maximum you can invest was raised to £200 a month but the minimum stays at £20. After 12 months' payments, you earn a certificate which you hold for a further four years and get 2.25 per cent tax free on average, over the full five years.

A number of unit trusts have a facility for making monthly payments into the fund. Even a few investments, trusts have started doing the same.

The minimum will probably be between £10 and £50 a month, with the option to increase this at any time, and no limit on how much you can put in. You can stop making payments whenever you wish but if you choose a time when the value of your units is low

you will not do as well as at other times and indeed might lose money.

Some will offer you a bonus of 1 or 2 per cent extra if you fulfil certain conditions: for example the TSB gives an extra 2 per cent for subscriptions over £50 a month; and Brown Shipley gives a 3 per cent bonus on all regular contributions.

With unit trust saving schemes, there will be annual charges to pay as well as the difference between the price at which you buy (the offer price) and the price at which you sell (the bid price, which is lower).

The terms of the different schemes vary depending on how much commission is paid to an intermediary, what charges are imposed and the bonuses given. This of course affects the amount of money you eventually get back.

Table 3 shows what might happen.

A phrase found bandied about with regular saving

schemes is "pound cost averaging", the suggestion being that you get more for your money. The argument is that if you buy units at, say £10, and then the price halves you have no need to worry, because at the lower price you will be buying twice as many units for your money and the average price is thus three quarters, not half, the original. If the price goes up, then you get fewer units for the same amount but who cares, because your investment has risen in value.

Over a period of years, provided you sell when the value of units is above the average, you will have gained because the average price you will have paid is lower than the average value.

Pension funds are, in their way, a form of regular savings, particularly if you are entitled to make additional voluntary contributions. The same goes for life insurance policies if you choose one with a large investment element.

TABLE 3
£100 a month invested; assuming 1 per cent a month growth:

	3% commission	20% commission & no contributions invested for 3 months	No commission & 3% bonus
YEAR	VALUE AT YEAR END	VALUE AT YEAR END	VALUE AT YEAR END
1	1,288.25	936.85	1,306.30
2	2,597.35	2,323.81	2,778.27
3	4,307.62	3,886.92	4,338.92
4	6,122.26	5,648.11	6,305.93
5	8,166.97	7,632.68	8,411.98
6	10,470.99	9,889.94	10,785.12
7	13,067.23	12,388.82	13,452.24
8	15,982.73	15,228.29	16,472.51
9	19,303.87	18,433.23	19,993.09

Never trust an actor, a gambler or a journalist

David Worsfold on the risks insurance companies are reluctant to take

RECENT massive losses by British insurance companies have forced many firms to tighten up by increasing premiums, especially in inner city areas, and by trying to weed out what they think are high risk businesses.

The trouble comes when the insurance experts start sorting out these bad risks. This process will inevitably mean that over the next couple of years more people are going to find that they are either quoted a much higher premium than the company advertises for their area or

they will be totally rejected when applying for a new house contents policy. Try to seek an explanation and you will probably encounter a stony silence. This is one of those sinister secrets that the insurance industry likes to keep to itself.

If you are turned down for a simple house contents policy, it is most likely because someone in that insurance company considers you to be a "moral hazard", a singularly unflattering term sometimes indiscriminately applied. Of course it is not something to take too personally, although if you are left with the expensive contents of your house unprotected it will certainly come as a blow.

You will have fallen foul of someone's prejudice against your occupation. You will stand a chance of finding someone to insure you provided you have no actual record of dishonesty or recklessness.

The most frequent entries on the lists of morally hazardous occupations that insurance companies draw up for their own internal consumption are: actors, musicians, antique dealers, club owners, market traders, professional gamblers, scrap merchants, used car salesmen, aircrew, and young journalists.

Ask an insurance company to explain its prejudice and you will be treated to stories of actors and musicians who have had wild all-night parties that resulted in their houses being either ransacked or badly damaged.

One company even said that they had a case of an actor's house burning to the ground, after a party, the implication being that all actors' parties are likely to end in bonfires.

Parties are just a part of the problem. All types of entertainers tend to be away for long periods or out for set times every evening, making their houses more obvious targets for thieves. In addition, they are supposed to lead more flamboyant lifestyles, accumulating and displaying their wealth frequently, often travelling abroad with a large quantity of valuables.

This, then, is the standard picture of an actor or musician in the mind of the average insurance underwriter. Fortunately, not all insurance experts share such a simple prejudice about some of these occupations and both Equities and the Musicians' Union have teamed up with specialist insurance brokers who have taken the time to find out which companies are pre-

pared to take a more sympathetic view and treat cases on an individual basis. Some insurance companies take a very restricted view of what constitutes a moral hazard, limiting it to people who have an obvious and proven leaning towards dishonesty.

Other cases — such as the occupations mentioned above — might have difficult aspects to them but can be taken on, possibly at a slightly increased price.

What an insurance company will be looking for is some evidence that their worst fears will not be realised. For instance, a spouse who has a more conventional occupation is a definite asset. If you can't manage that, the try stressing how responsible you are by getting someone to come in while you are away to check that the water pipes and so on haven't sprung a

leak, fit decent locks on doors and windows and submit detailed valuations. If you have had a proposal for a house contents policy turned down on the grounds of your occupation, you will certainly have to enlist some specialist help — a good insurance broker.

You may be told that you should not look for high value cover on an "all risks" basis because this tends to ring alarm bells with insurance companies who fear that all manner of valuables will be taken abroad never to be seen again except as a hefty insurance claim. This is probably not very useful advice.

If you travel abroad and have to leave valuable items with you, you should get them covered on an all risks basis so that they are properly insured for loss or damage outside the home.



Rossiter as Rigby: the perfect landlord?

Fair shares

Nicholas Cole reports on how to live with a lodger

THEY may borrow your gin, liberate your last egg, and feast on your bathroom with dripping soap or lighter; they may slam doors, stink when you choose of television programmes clashes with theirs, and leave without notice owing rent.

Tenants can be unlovely people, yet the advantages of sharing a place with them outweigh the drawbacks for a significant number of home owners. Taking a lodger, once the prerogative of impecunious widows, is increasingly widespread notably among young professionals, married couples, and students. Rent is often seen as a useful way to subsidise a mortgage.

Under the Housing Act 1980, which made important changes in the law affecting letting by resident landlords, the rent is firstly a matter for agreement between landlord and tenant. Either party can apply to a rent tribunal to have a reasonable rent registered at any time; the rent subsequently fixed may be higher, lower or the same, depending on the area, condition of the property and facilities offered, and remains valid for two years at least.

Rents are commonly in the range £20-£80 a week. Landlords have the right to get tenants to pay rates, and rate increases, for the accommodation let, in addition to the rent.

The "restricted contract", or simpler rules for letting introduced in the 1980 act, dispenses with formalities and the need for a written agreement. Any new letting is a restricted contract, provided the landlord and tenant live in the same house or flat and that "substantial board" — meals — is not part of the arrangement. It does not matter whether the letting is furnished or not.

Simple procedures apply for notice to quit, but these have to be followed. Courts must grant landlords possession, though the date when such an order takes effect can be suspended for up to three months.

To safeguard against a tenant who damages furniture or leaves without paying bills, the landlord can insist on a returnable deposit of up to two

months' rent. It is worth reading the free guide Letting Rooms in Your Home, available from the Department of the Environment or Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Some owners feel concerned that their building society will object. But letting one or two rooms is a perfectly acceptable method of subsidising mortgage repayments, so long as an owner continues to live in the house, to forestall possible re-sale complications arising from a sitting tenant.

You should, however, check with your insurance company that your house contents and building policy is not affected by the presence of a tenant. If the home is rented, the landlord's consent is needed before sub-letting.

Income from letting is taxable as earned income, but the rules are straightforward and the allowances fair. They appear to favour wives with no other directly-paid employment who can earn up to £2,205 tax-free annually after the expenses incurred in providing services such as room-cleaning, laundry and the occasional meal.

Where no services are provided, the entire rent is assessed as investment income. Capital gains liability accrues only when the lodger lives separately, the letting rooms form a self-contained unit, and the landlord's gain exceeds £20,000 during the period they are let.

Student landlords are treated as ordinary taxpayers, with due liability and allowances, including interest relief if the mortgage is in their name. If it is in their parents' name, there is no special exemption beyond the £30,000 limit.

Home-owners receiving supplementary benefit have all declared rental earnings offset against this, though they will continue to get mortgage interest paid — at least until the outcome of the Government's proposed social security reforms is known. Telephone advice, general, not specific, is available by dialling 100 and asking for DHSS Freephone.

There are probably no fortunes to be made from small-scale lets. But the income provides a helpful supplement for many purposes, from home-improvement to increasing the personal savings safety net.

"Right now, you should be investing in companies you may never have heard of."

41 know of no better investment today than relatively unknown companies. Which may sound surprising as, over the last two years, it is shares in blue chip companies which have performed spectacularly well.

But this was due to two factors, both of which have now run their course.

Firstly, big companies streamlined their operations during the recession and, as a result, became more profitable when business picked up. Secondly, the strong dollar increased the value of the earnings of British companies in the USA.

However, now that this momentum has slowed, institutional investors are turning their attention to smaller companies with growth prospects. A philosophy I have already been following for some time.

My belief is that in the future we will see

a number of relatively unheard of companies growing in profitability, despite the general pedestrian economic trends.

Which is why, for those investors who want real growth on their investments, this type of company provides first class prospects.

In fact, some of these second liners have already outstripped many in the first division by returning above average profits.

And we will continue to pinpoint these companies as effectively as possible.

Obviously, to reduce risk, a good deal of research and analysis is required to pave the way.

After all, to buy shares when they are out of favour, you have to be convinced that your view is correct.

Because of this, when considering investment opportunities for Target's Special Situations Fund, two well tried courses of action are taken.

ASSET VALUATION

Firstly, if we think that a share is radically undervalued compared to the net asset value of the company, let alone the growth potential, we would consider it to be a relatively low risk way of buying

what may well prove to be highly geared stock.

Only last year, for example, we bought Associated Newspapers because we discovered that its assets were probably worth more than four times its share price.

Since then, the share price has risen as other investors began to realise the extent of the groups' property interests and its stake in a valuable oil company.

DIGGING DEEP

The second type of stock we look for is one where a company's business is diversifying, or even changing — factors which are probably unknown to the majority of private investors.

An example is Lamont Holdings. This company had previously been thought of as a Northern Irish producer of textiles labouring under a fairly dowdy image. But after visiting the company a year ago and digging fairly deeply, we discovered that Lamont was diversifying very profitably into the area of computer technology.

We knew that a re-rating of stock was inevitable, so we bought soon after our visit. In fact, since our investment, the share price has risen substantially and is now tipped by leading market analysts — a year behind us!

BROADER HORIZONS

Recently, we have decided to broaden our horizons slightly by looking for opportunities outside the UK. At certain times over the last six months up to 10% of the fund value has been invested in the Far East. And we now have an interest in the USA. However, our Special Situations Fund is always likely to have the majority of its assets in the UK.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Applications and cheques will be acknowledged. Certificates will be sent within 42 days of receipt. You may sell your units at any time at a price which will not be less than that calculated by Department of Trade and Industry regulations. Payment will be made within 10 days of receipt by the Managers of the renounced certificate. Prices of units and yields are quoted daily in the Financial Times.

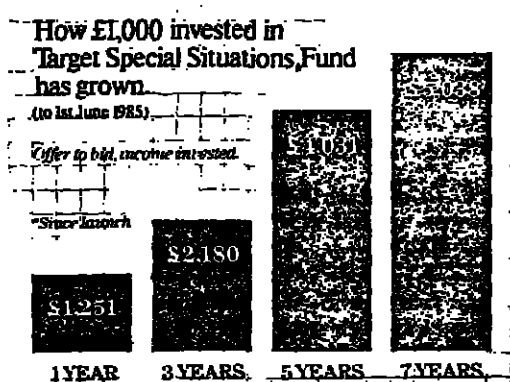
An initial charge of 6% is included in the offer price of units, out of which remuneration is paid to qualified intermediaries. Charges are available on request. An annual charge of 1% plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income is distributed net of basic rate tax on 31st March and 30th September. On 31st June 1985, Target Special Situations Fund units were available at an offer price of 94.3p and the current estimated gross annual yield was 1.85%.

The Trustee of Target Special Situations Fund is Midland Bank PLC. Managers: Target Trust Managers Limited (a member of the Unit Trust Association) 7-9 Breams Buildings, London EC4A 3EL. Registered in England, No: 847546 at Target House, Garsington Road, Oxford, OX4 1BU.



JOHN HODSON
INVESTMENT DIRECTOR
TARGET GROUP PLC

Remember, the price of units, and the income from them, may go down as well as up.



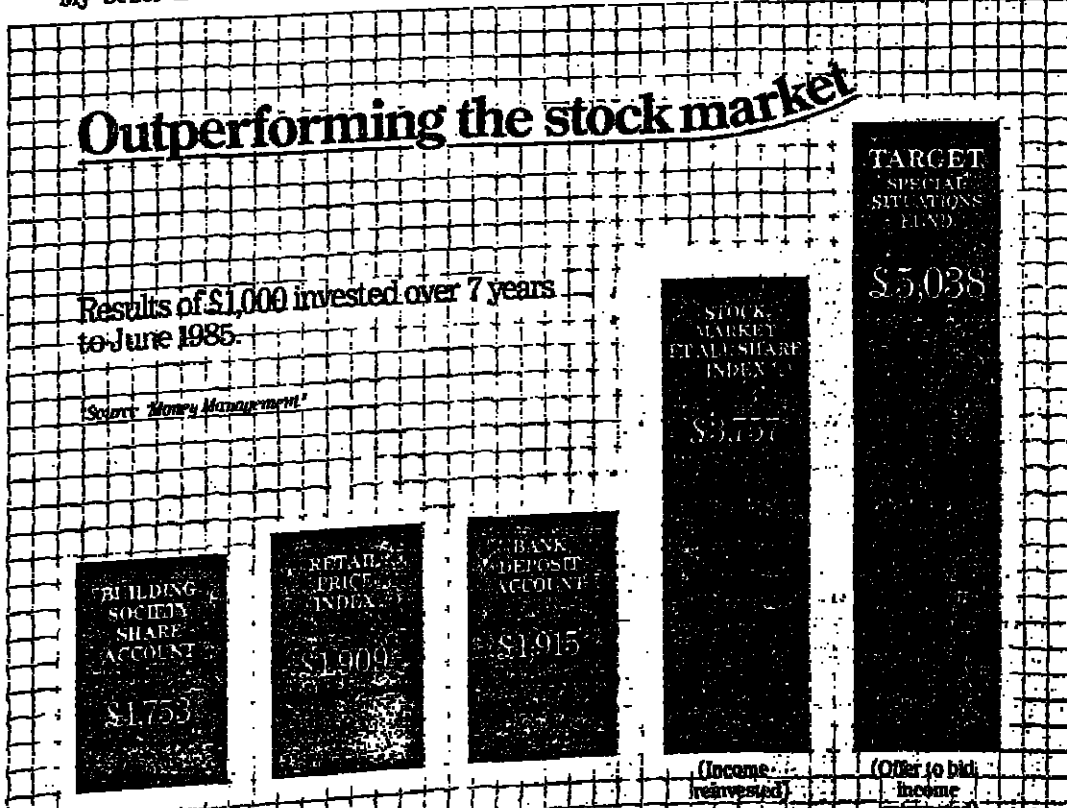
OUTPERFORMING THE STOCK MARKET

Investors in the Target Special Situations Fund will have a portfolio of shares that are ideally placed to take advantage of current stock market conditions.

And, I am now not alone in my opinion. Just recently, the Financial Times argued the case for investing in "small, growing and entrepreneurial companies" in an article entitled "Thinking small can bring big benefits".

Out of the 20 funds we manage, my recommendation today is to invest in Target Special Situations Fund.

If you normally consult a professional adviser, I suggest you contact him without delay. Alternatively, complete the coupon below.



Send to:
Target Trust Managers Limited, FREEPOST, London EC4B 4EH. Tel: 01-631 8244.

My professional adviser is: ☐ I/We wish to receive details of how to exchange shares for unit trusts. ☐ Please tick

I/We wish to invest £ in Target Special Situations Fund (minimum £500) at the price ruling on receipt of this application.

Please make your cheque payable to Target Trust Managers Limited.

Full Name(s)

Address

Postcode

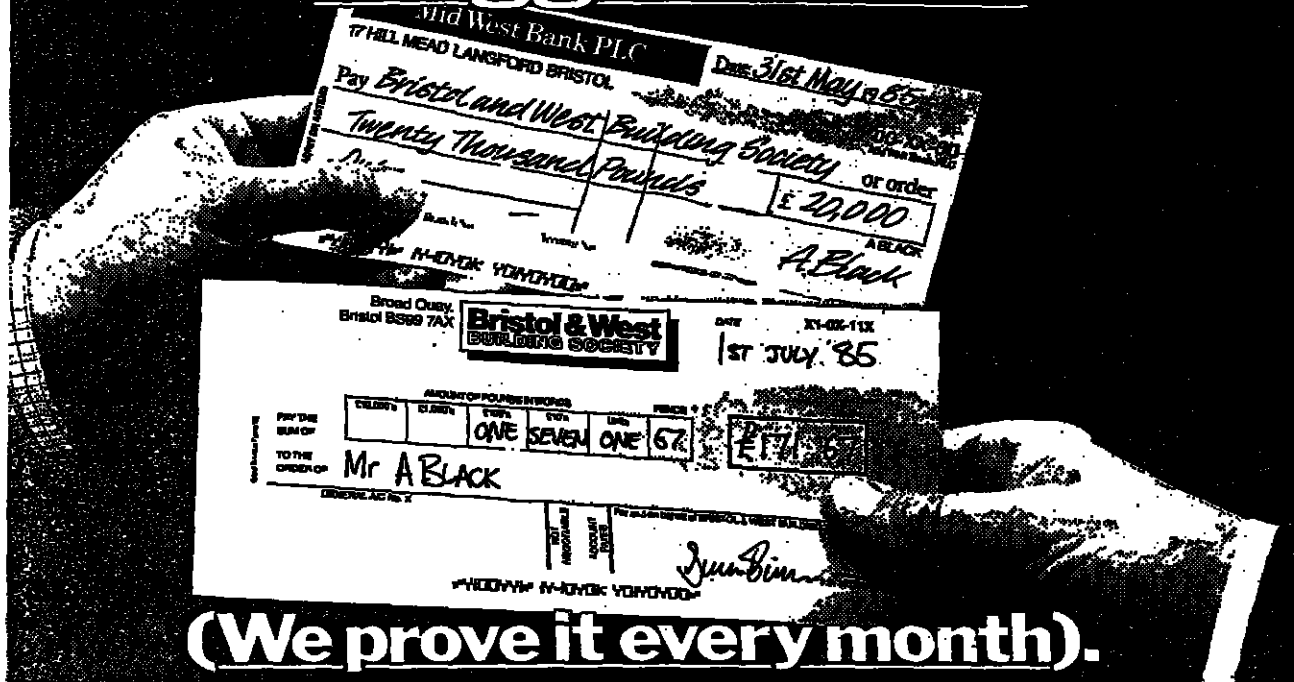
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UNIT TRUSTS

UNIT TRUSTS LIFE ASSURANCE PENSIONS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

GD1307

THE MONEY BUILDING SOCIETY

Our Triple Bonus Income Account gives you a bigger return.

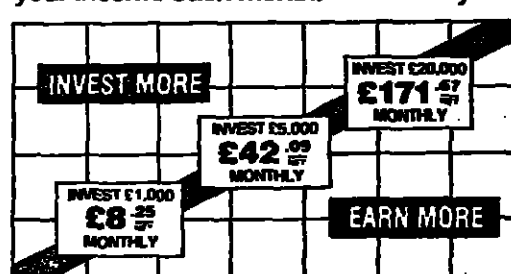


(We prove it every month).

The Bristol Triple Bonus Income Account provides a high monthly income and rewards you handsomely for investing more. The more you invest, the higher your interest rate, and the bigger your income each month.

(14.43% gross equivalent).

By investing £20,000 or more in a Triple Bonus Income Account you'll earn 10.30% p.a. interest (14.71% gross equivalent). Invest £20,000 at this rate and you'll receive over £171 on the 1st of every month.



With just £1,000 invested, our new higher rates give you over £8 a month at a healthy 9.9% p.a. (14.14% gross equivalent).

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If you don't need a monthly income, we pay the same high rates of interest annually on our 7 day notice Triple Bonus Account - with instant access to your money if you leave £10,000 or more invested.

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for both accounts.

Or write (no stamp required) to Triple Bonus Dept., Bristol and West Building Society, FREEPOST, P.O. Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol BS99 7BR.

BRISTOL TRIPLE BONUS INCOME ACCOUNT

Bristol & West BUILDING SOCIETY

If you want to retire on a reasonable income, don't change jobs. Richard Whitt outlines the perils of the frozen pension and finds some confusion in new legislation.

The pensioners left out in the cold

AN icy farewell, otherwise known as a frozen pension, is the unattractive leaving present many people get when they change their job. "Unattractive" because a frozen pension means exactly what it says: fixed in advance, unchanging and immutable however long the period between the date you leave and the date when you actually retire and draw the pension. It starts off small and gets smaller as time goes on because inflation steadily eats away at its real value.

And concealed behind the lack of inflation-proofing lies another disadvantage: the benefit is calculated according to your salary at the date you leave and the number of years of employment you have then completed.

For example, if your final salary pension scheme gives you a pension of one-sixtieth of salary for each year of employment and you leave after 10 years on a salary of £3,000, your frozen pension will be:

1/60 of £3,000 OR £150.

However, when you come to retire, your salary may well have risen to £15,000. Naturally, you would like to feel that your whole pension is related to your higher salary. This would mean that for the first 10 years you worked, your pension would then become:

1/60 of £15,000 OR £250.

But your frozen pension is £150 short of this figure.

Unfortunately, nobody wants to know about this shortfall nor about giving you the extra £100 pension. Certainly not your first employer, who would argue that you left him years ago, and it's no part of his responsibility to pay you more money 30 years later. Equally, your last employer feels his responsibility stops with the years you worked for him.

Multiply this typical situation by a number of job changes and you can see how the pension of the job changer must suffer by comparison with a person who works for the same employer throughout his career. Or, conversely, there can be compensating factors. You may earn a higher salary as a result of changing your job. Or you may move from an employer with no pension provision to one with a generous retirement scheme. Nevertheless, the fundamental drawbacks of the frozen pension remain.

Now, however, the ice is melting. First, the good news. From January 1, 1986, legislation requires that the frozen



pension you get when you leave must have its value increased by 5 per cent a year - or by the rate of inflation, if it is lower.

Thus, £100 of frozen pension today would be worth £200 in 14 years' time, and £400 in 28 years' time at a 5 per cent yearly rate of increase. Certainly, a big improvement on a static frozen pension. But you have to remember that the value can't go up more than inflation. And inflation has averaged, say, 5 per cent a year over the period, because of the 5 per cent ceiling on the rate of interest, the real value of your pension will still have halved. Your best situation is inflation at or below 5 per cent a year, in which case the pension value will have kept pace exactly with the fall in the value of money.

Now for the bad news. The 5 per cent revaluation rate only applied to the pension built up for you since January 1, 1985. Suppose you change your job in January 1987 having been 10 years with your current employer. At a leaving salary of £20,000, your total accrued pension would still be the £1,500 calculated earlier. But the bit accruing from January 1, 1985 to January 1, 1987 will have to be revalued by your first employer at the rate of 5 per cent or inflation if lower. The pension for this period, that is, for 2 years would be:

1/60 of £20,000 OR £333.

Therefore, £300 of your accrued pension will be revalued, but the major part, £1,200 (£1,500 less £300), will not be, since it dates back to the years before January 1, 1985.

A revalued frozen pension is not the only option which will be available. Also from January 1, 1986, if you change your job you will have the right to choose between three main options:

1. The revalued frozen pension just described.
2. A transfer value paid into your new employer's scheme from the trustees of the scheme you are leaving. Although your current employer will be compelled to provide the transfer, the trustees of the pension scheme of your new employer are not compelled to accept it. It is entirely up to them, however, that most schemes will have or will introduce the facility to accept transfer values in due course.

3. The same amount of transfer value to be paid instead to any insurance company you choose in order to buy you a pension. In the jargon, this is known as "a section 22 contract" or more grandly as a "buy out bond".

When you change your job, therefore, your first step must be to get the figures for the frozen pension to which you are entitled and the amount of the transfer value.

You then need to check whether your new employer's scheme will accept that transfer value and if so, how much pension you would be credited. A point to watch carefully here is that some employers may give you an added advantage over and above the strict mathematical value of what pension the transfer payment can buy. They may give you a pension which is higher than the pension they credit you with those years can result in a real boost to your pension when you will get pension-related to your much higher retiring salary, and not just in the salary at the date of leaving.

Finally, you can ask one or more insurance companies to give you a quotation to see how much pension the transfer value will buy you.

Having got all these figures you can then decide which of the most difficult jobs is comparing them and deciding which option to choose. In my next article, I will set out the way in which you can reach a decision based on some actual figures.

Gartmore Gartmore Gartmore

If you really want to know what's what in the investment world, get *What Investment's* free profile on Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd.

Gartmore Fund Managers Limited

Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd, 2 St Mary's Ave, London EC3A 8BP. Tel: Freephone 2621 (24 hours) or during office hours 01-623 2222. Please send a copy of *What Investment's* profile on Gartmore.

Name _____ Address _____

"10 years with Save & Prosper - our income has more than doubled and our capital has risen 221%."

£10,000 invested in High Return Unit Trust ten years ago would have given you a rising income - £1,315 in just the twelve months to 1st June 1985 - a net return of over 13% on the original investment. Meanwhile the return on a building society ordinary share account during the same twelve months would have produced no more than £773.

Over those ten years your initial investment of £10,000 would have grown to £32,133 (bid price value) with Save & Prosper - a capital gain of 221% - while your capital in a building society would have remained unchanged.

See how your income and capital would have grown with High Return over the last ten years:

IMPRESSIVE TEN YEAR RECORD		
	INCOME paid year to 1st June	CAPITAL as at 1st June
1975	Initial Investment	£10,000
1976	£ 488	£11,019
1977	£ 642	£12,701
1978	£ 784	£15,545
1979	£ 936	£17,488
1980	£1,087	£19,578
1981	£1,192	£21,066
1982	£1,078	£21,517
1983	£1,126	£22,403
1984	£1,171	£24,431
1985	£1,315	£32,133

About the fund

High Return Unit Trust invests in a selection of companies whose shares offer the prospect of a high and growing income, as well as scope for capital growth.

Excellent prospects

Continuing economic recovery should lead to steady growth in company profit levels. This should be reflected in higher dividends, enabling higher distributions to be made from the fund next year.

Invest today

Simply complete and return the coupon, together with your cheque, either through your professional adviser or direct to us. On 9th July 1985 the offer price of units was 142.5p and the estimated gross starting yield was 5.67% p.a.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

HIGH RETURN UNIT TRUST



GENERAL INFORMATION

OBJECTIVE To provide a portfolio designed to achieve a high income from stocks and shares. **DEALING IN UNITS** Units may normally be bought or sold on any working day. Certificates will normally be forwarded within 14 days. When units are sold back to the Managers, payment is normally made within 7 days of our receiving your request. **PRICES AND YIELD** are quoted daily in the *Financial Times*, *The Times* and on *Previews* 48128. **KITTY LINE DISTRIBUTION** Units sent every 14th August each year. **CHARITIES** Initial charge: 5% plus a rounding adjustment not exceeding the lower of 1% or 1.25p per unit, which is included in the offer price of units. Remuneration (at rates available on request) will be paid to authorised professional advisers. Annual charge: 1% of the value of the Fund plus VAT (permitted maximum 1% plus VAT - subject to three months' notice). This is deducted from the Fund's assets to meet Managers' expenses, including Trustees' fees. **INVESTMENT POWERS** The Managers have executed a supplemental trust deed enabling them to purchase and write traded options subject to the limitations laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry. **SAFEGUARDS** The Fund is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and is a "wide-range" investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Trustee: Bank of Scotland. **MANAGERS** Save & Prosper Securities Limited, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2JY. Telephone: 0708-66966. A member of the Unit Trust Association.

To: Save & Prosper Securities Ltd. FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR.

Tel: 0708-66966 (24 hours). Prestel: 48128.

I wish to invest £ (minimum £250 initially, £100 subsequently) in Save & Prosper High Return Unit Trust. I enclose a cheque made payable to Save & Prosper Securities Limited. I am over 18. I understand that units will be allocated at the offer price ruling on receipt of an application. I would like distributions of income to be paid direct to my bank. ☐ OR paid by cheque to myself ☐ OR reinvested in further units ☐ (Please tick one box)

CAPITALS PLEASE First Name: _____ Surname (Mr./Mrs./Miss): _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Existing Account number (if any): _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____

AGENCY'S STAMP: _____ FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: _____

This offer is available to members of the British Unit Trust Association. The offer is valid until 31st July 1985. Units will be allocated on 1st August 1985.

SAVE & PROSPER

How to build up LOTS OF MONEY month by month

For as little as £15 a month, the new TSB Unitbuilder regular saving scheme can really get your money growing.

Because, with TSB Unitbuilder, your monthly savings are invested by professional experts in the shares of a wide variety of selected companies. Then, as those companies prosper, so do your savings!

What's more, TSB Unitbuilder's adaptability can be used to suit your changing circumstances.

You can increase your monthly savings, or add lump sums of £25 or more whenever you have some spare cash. Or you can suspend your monthly payments if you have to.

Or cash in your savings at any time.

How Unitbuilder works...

Apply for a Unitbuilder today and your monthly payments will buy you units in TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust.

Launched in April 1982, this Trust is currently valued at some £24 million, invested for around 14,000 people.

Its aim is to achieve the very maximum capital growth from the ordinary shares of progressive companies, from new share issues (such as British Telecom) and from situations such as takeovers and mergers.

Its investment policy is one which has more than paid off.

...and how it could work for you

If you had saved just £30 a month in TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust over the 3 years to June 12th, 1985 (a total outlay of just £1,080) it would have grown to £1,488.31!

ADDITIONAL FACTS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT TSB SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES UNIT TRUST

Investment Manager: Central Trustee Savings Bank Limited. Trustees: General Accident Insurance and Trustee Company Limited. Charge: 5% on every purchase of units thereafter: 1% p.a. (plus VAT) of the Trust value, deducted from its income. The Trust's assets are included in the offer price of units. **Prices/Units:** Offer price for income units: estimated current gross yield 47.2p/2.78% both on July 20, 1985. **Redeemed Income:** Income, after deduction of income tax at the standard rate, is reinvested in the Trust on your behalf in the form of additional units on March 7th and September 7th each year. **Registered Office:** Keene House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Registered in England and Wales, number 1828925.

TSB UNITBUILDER

Get your money growing

TSB UNITBUILDER

To: Fred Shafer, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Keene House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Telephone: (0264) 63433/34.

I/We wish to save £ a month in TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust (Minimum £15 a month) through a TSB Unitbuilder scheme and enclose my/our completed Business Order Form.

SEND NO MONEY NOW. (CHECK CAPITALS PLEASE) Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms (Print name): _____

Postcode: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ For Bank Branch use: _____

To: The Manager

Sorting Code: _____

Address: _____

Please pay Central Trustee Savings Bank Limited (TSB) for the credit of TSB Unit Trusts (Selected Opportunities Unit Trust) an initial sum of _____

On of every month until further notice in writing. Name(s) of Account to be debited: _____

Account No: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Bank Branch use: _____

First

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account (Unaudited)

Revenue

Operating profit

Net interest (payable) received

Profit on ordinary activities

Finance

Revenue from investments

- excluding sale of investments

- safeguarded

Corporation Tax

Profit for the financial year

Dividends

Amount set aside to reserve

Earnings per share

Dividend per share

Profit generated from operations

Profit paid

Additions to fixed assets

DIVIDENDS

The Directors have recommended a dividend of 40p per share. Except in the subject of HM Government, will be made on 1st October at the close of business on

Brit

Your money questions answered

I AM nearly 81 and my wife is nearly 78. Our only child is our daughter who lives in the USA with her family and we are very anxious that she should benefit from our life's savings when we are gone. We own a house valued at roughly £45,000 and some £9,000 of investments. If I die before my wife she would receive a regular income of approximately £75 per week, plus the house and savings which are all in our joint names.

In the event of my wife being placed in a home would the local authority have the right to sell the house and take all our savings to meet the expenses or is there some means of making the house over to our daughter? — J.D., London, NW9.

THE local authority have no power to compel a resident in a home to sell his property so as to pay the accommodation charges. However, they can place a charge on the property that would enable them to recover the accrued balance of charges when the property is finally sold (probably after death). Since you have between £9,000-£10,000 invested you could at this stage transfer your house to your daughter, while retaining a life tenancy in it.

Section 21 of the Health and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983 states that an authority in certain circumstances, will be able to recover accommodation charges from recipients of the transferred assets. (This section is not yet in force). It would have to be shown that the assets had been transferred knowingly and with intent to avoid charges. However, in your case, your investments could be used, if necessary to pay for your accommodation charges and therefore there should be no objection to transferring the property.

Good cause

I REACH my 60th birthday this year. My wife, 14 years older than me, was in full time employment until we married in 1955. Until we read an article in the Guardian we did not think she would be entitled to any State pension until I became 65. We have had a disappointing answer from our local social security office. — P.M. Kent.

JUDGING by the number of letters about State pensions, the situation of numerous

people, women in particular, do not fit into the general rules. The result is utter confusion.

The most common complaints are women who reach retirement age of 60 and discover, sometimes years later, that they do not have to wait until their husbands reach retirement age of 65 before they can collect any pension due to them in their own right.

What annoys them even more is when they are refused, as in your case, all the back money they are entitled to. This is because you should claim three months before you are due to the pension. Only three months' arrears is normally paid, unless you show a "good cause" for claiming late. If you can do this, it's worth a

try, but even then you are unlikely to get more than a year's back money.

But saying that you didn't know you were entitled to your pension is unlikely to be accepted as a "good cause" for not claiming.

Wrong or inadequate advice by an official at your local DHSS office qualifies as a "good cause" for a late claim.

My advice is you and others in a similar situation is to plug away at your local DHSS office until you get some satisfaction. There have been cases of the department stretching the rules.

Share deals

I AM shortly to be invited to participate in a five-year savings related share option

scheme run by my company. This means a minimum saving of £10 a month over five years, with an option at the end of the period either to buy shares in the company at 90 per cent of today's value or take the proceeds of my monthly savings with a guaranteed bonus of 3.5 per cent compounded. Your views on this form of investment would be greatly appreciated. — P.G., Warrington.

COMPANY share option schemes can be a very attractive form of saving, but their full value will depend on the prospects for your company's share price in the future, and on your continuing to save for five years. If the company's share price has fallen when you come to exercise your option you still have your own building society share account at the end of the five-year term, though you could certainly earn more over the period in some other form of savings. If the price has risen, an option to buy at 90 per cent of today's price will be very worthwhile indeed. A disadvantage is that if you change your job before your plan matures, the option to buy shares lapses. Take a long, careful look at your company's prospects before you decide.

Future plans

I AM due to retire in about five years' time. Where can I get some information on financial planning? — D.S.M., Canterbury.

MANY employers invite retirement counsellors to talk to employees due to retire. If your employer does not already do so, it may be worth suggesting it to him. I would also refer you to Age Concern. This is a registered charity which promotes the welfare of elderly people.

The organisation publishes a wide range of booklets aimed at people like yourself and those already in retirement. One you may be particularly interested in is Your Taxes and Savings in Retirement. It costs only £1.50 from Bernard Subley House, 60 Fitzalan Road, Mitham, Surrey. Age Concern will gladly send you a full list of its publications.

What started the rot in last year's crop on Michael Hyde's allotment? And how can he avoid it this year?

Onions without tears



Welsh and tree onions: drawing by Sharon Finnmark.

BULB ONIONS are grown successfully on most allotments. They are a suitable crop if you can escape the allium ailments of white rot, neck rot, thick neck, downy mildew, smut, rust, etc. Some people abhor their smell, but in the kitchen they are gastronomic gold.

Onions have adapted to and grow in all parts of the world except the tropics. They can be white, yellow, or red, of varying shape and flavour, with differing harvesting times and storing capability. Science and research improve varieties and work towards disease resistance.

On our allotment enclave, onions have been much in evidence for the past week or so, sown in smart rows and squares uniformly green, upright, and proud. They have been growing apace. Some of our plot holders, younger enthusiasts like Eric, experiment with the less common alliums such as the Egyptian tree onion which, I understand, is not to be found growing in Egypt, and Japanese onions which originated in China. I myself have a few Welsh (Japanese) bunching onions from the Northern Horticultural Society's last seed distribution. Few grow garlic. Leeks are a most popular crop and can be harvested from November until April, though they tend to become a bit tough by then. Most grow the old and trusted favourites like Musselburgh. There are, of course, new varieties like Early Market and Winter Crop (late maturing).

Nelson, my plot associate, and myself are particularly pleased this year with our early maturing Japanese onions. It is the first time we have harvested mature onions in July. They are Shenshiki Semi-Globe Yellow from Suttons. This variety is in the classified list of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, following 1974-81 trials; pronounced good for both resistance to bolting and winter hardiness.

Our seed was sown on two separate dates last August. The seedlings, having

spurned and survived the hard winter, were transplanted, yes, transplanted, by Nelson early this year. He followed his own instincts rather than the advice on seed packet to thin but not transplant. Perhaps, therefore, we are undeservingly lucky because we have had no ailing transplants, nor have we been beset by bolting. We are now using these bulb onions happily while waiting for our main crops to mature, cure, and store. This will be the last time, of course, new varieties like Early Market and Winter Crop (late maturing).

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Our seed was sown on two separate dates last August. The seedlings, having

drying and storing of onions, as one might expect, differs in different areas. Where possible, countries grow varieties which they can harvest during favourable climatic conditions. In Japan, they pack the onions in loosely woven straw baskets, or hang them in bundles from bamboo canes in roofed but open field sheds; Idaho, they use crates and burlap bags; Texas, bushel baskets; in California they dry them in windows, several onions deep, in the open; Spain, in grass-strewn, slatted storage bins.

What then, I ask myself, could have started the rot in our own last year's crop. Was it inadequate care and attention? Lifting too soon or too late? Drying them too near our composting area where disease spores might have been flying through the air with the greatest of ease? Or have we ever — heaven forbid — thrown rotten onions on the compost heap rather than destroy them by holocaust? Surely not. Nelson says some of the crop were rotting before lifting which, alas, suggests infected soil. Or were our onions suffering in sympathy with some in our local university's botanic garden about a mile away where valuable research is being done by the pathology department to find an antidote to white rot and thereby bring ultimate benefit to the onion eaters of the world?

Who can say? I wish I could. Our onion squads look so cheerful and healthy just now in early July that it is difficult to envisage an extra month bringing a bad change. We shall be on the alert, of course, if not on our knees. One thing, I fear, is certain. I shall never achieve the epitaph, "He knew his onions."

Odd jobbing

by Hilary Applegate

I HAVE just started to foster the surroundings of a new house; a fairly small, enclosed angular back garden and an open plan front. The builders endowed me with walls and fences with a range of shrubs, plus four 3 metre high trees. The thin soil has baked hard as iron.

First priority is to reduce the flourishing weed population to give the garden plants a chance of settling in. Next I shall look for a convenient supply of well rotted or inert organic material for use as a mulch. This will retain moisture, restrain weeds, and improve the soil structure. The important thing about applying a mulch at this time of year is to ensure that the soil is thoroughly wetted beforehand, either by act of God or by less gracious means. Otherwise the organic overlay will absorb subsequent rainfall and potentially exacerbate the dryness underneath.

Then I shall erect a system of supporting wires around most of the walls, so that new shoots of pyreantha, cotoneaster horizontalis, Fat-shedders, etc. can be trained whilst young and relatively supple.

People within easy reach of the capital may like to visit the North London Community Gardens opening to the public this weekend. Forgotten urban land has been reclaimed by local residents as their contribution to greening the City. The theme of the garden ranges from ecology to recreation, from food production to woodland. For information of where to go and when, phone the Calthorpe Project, 01-837 8019 today or tomorrow.

First half results from Britoil

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account (Unaudited)	Six Months ended 30.6.85 \$ million	Six months ended 30.6.84 \$ million
Turnover	968.1	645.9
Operating profit	364.1	282.1
Net interest (payable)/receivable	0.6	(2.1)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	364.7	280.0
Taxation		
Petroleum Revenue Tax		
— excluding safeguard	(206.6)	(165.8)
— safeguard	8.9	15.6
Corporation Tax	(75.6)	(66.4)
Profit for the financial period	91.4	63.4
Dividends	(20.1)	(16.5)
Amount set aside to reserves	71.5	46.9
Earnings per share	18.19p	12.66p
Dividend per share	4.00p	3.30p
Funds generated from operations less tax paid	257.8	290.5
Additions to fixed assets	330.9	269.9

DIVIDENDS

The Directors have decided to pay an interim dividend of 4.00p per share. Except in the case of the shares which are to be the subject of HM Government's proposed Offer for Sale, payment will be made on 1st October 1985 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 2nd September 1985.

THE SIX MONTHS' HIGHLIGHTS

- * Turnover increases to \$968.1 million. Revenue from equity production at \$775.6 million is up \$145.7 million (23%) on the 1984 first half year. The remainder of the increase is due to sales of purchased petroleum at \$192.5 million (£14.0 million in 1984).
- * Pre-tax profit increases to \$364.7 million, up \$84.7 million (30%) on the 1984 half year, and after-tax profit to \$91.4 million, up \$28.0 million (44%).
- * Oil production (including LPG and condensate) averages 178,300 barrels per day (157,800 barrels per day in the 1984 half year) and gas production 256 million cubic feet per day (226 million cubic feet per day in the 1984 half year).
- * Is acquiring interests in 23 UK landward licences, including the Humble Grove oil field and the Hornsea and Herriard oil discoveries, and 3 UK offshore licences, including the Glen field, from Haddon Petroleum International plc.
- * Fanned in with an initial 16.5% interest to Texaco operated Block 3/4a and the option of a further 33.5% interest in a development. Interests in other blocks also acquired by firm-in.
- * As operator, commenced the assembly of the Clyde jacket and completed water injection drilling at the Beatrice 'C' site. First production achieved from the partner-operated Statford 'C' platform.
- * Maintained position as one of the most active UKCS explorers, involved in a total of 19 wells spudded. Awarded, with partners, 19 blocks in the Ninth Round.
- * Further expansion in the US giving Britoil close involvement with two more companies making four in total: an agreement signed with Freeport-McMoran Inc. to acquire a 25% interest in assets recently acquired by them from Midland Energy Company; an agreement for a joint three year exploration programme signed with the Williams Exploration Company.
- * Other overseas activities continue to expand — licences awarded in Thailand (onshore near Bangkok), the Netherlands (offshore blocks F/15a, K/4b, K/5a and K/16) and Norway (offshore block 25/7). The Thai licence is Britoil's first Far Eastern operationship.
- * Gas discovery made on Kangean block in Indonesia.

For a copy of the Interim Report please complete and return the coupon to the Company Secretary Britoil plc, 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5JL. Existing shareholders will receive the Report shortly.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Britoil

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COMPARE PRICES — You can pay over twice as much for plastic compost bins of these capacities. Buy direct from the manufacturer and save 50%.

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See us at: Garden Centre, 1000 High Street, London W14 0JL. Tel: 01-837 8019. (Please add 5% towards handling and carriage costs.)

Please allow up to 1421 days for delivery. The price includes VAT. Money is refundable on demand without question. Orders and enquiries must be sent to: Guardian Total Weedkiller Offer, Bourne Road, Bexley, Kent D15 1BL. Tel: (0223) 53216 for enquiries only.

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TOTAL WEEDKILLER is cleared under U.K. Safety Precautions when used as directed on the pack. It does not contain Dioxin, Sodium Chlorate, 2,4-D or Paraquat.

Prices: Packs of five 50gm sachets (250 sq. ft.) £3.50. Packs of four 50gm sachets (100 sq. ft.) £2.50. Packs of eight 50gm sachets (200 sq. ft.) £11.50. (Please add 5% towards handling and carriage costs.)

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Please send me the Pack(s) of TOTAL WEEDKILLER I have indicated below:

☐ 2 sachet pack (500 sq. ft.) at £3.50

☐ 4 sachet pack (1,000 sq. ft.) at £5.95

☐ 8 sachet pack (2,000 sq. ft.) at £11.50

I enclose cheque/postal order for £_____ made payable to GUARDIAN TOTAL WEEDKILLER OFFER. (Please add 5% towards handling and carriage costs.)

Or debit my Access/Visa Card No. _____

Signature _____

MR/MRS/MISS _____

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MARLEY

Can the customer trust the housebuilders?

breaks down. It is up to each builder to ensure site supervision is correct.

There are reputable timber traders and contractors in England too. Lawllyn Homes have just been awarded a \$41 millions contract by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation for a new housing estate at Crowhill, the bulk of which are timber frame. They have won a further \$1 million contract to build 33 timber framed houses for rental at Thamesmead for the Greater London Council.

GLC's chief project manager, David Lawrence, says no matter what kind of building it is, the price on the site is the price on the site. "We have always been used to a high level of site supervision on all the timber framing we have done and we have never shed any trouble with it."

Until the public starts to ask questions on site supervision, the price on the sites where they buy their houses of either form of construction, quality assurance will continue to be determined by the builder rather than the consumer.



picture by Denis Thorpe

picture by Denis Thorpe

WINTER
SOUTH
FESTIVAL
ELIZABETH
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ENTENARY FF
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QUA KOLN
BAROQUE PLAYERS
ART CONFERENCE IN

BBC-1

7.10-8.25 am Open University. 8.30 The Saturday Picture Show.

10.55 GRANDSTAND. Including: 11.0, 1.40, 2.5, 3.35, 4.20 cricket - Third Test from Trent Bridge. 1.0 News; 1.5, 2.5, 3.35, 4.20 golf - Lawrence Bailey International Classic; 5.5, 2.5, 2.55 racing from Lingfield Park and The Curragh; 3.40 show jumping from Hickstead.

6.25 NEWS: Weather News; sport; regional news magazines.

6.40 TERRY AND JUNE. Terry Scott, June Whitfield as the cosy couple of the sitcom repeat, she decreeing that neighbourly relations must be improved and despatching him on a bird-watching trip to that end. Ceefax sub-titles.

7.10 ACES HIGH. Jack Gold's powerful anti-war drama centres on a RAF squadron on the Western Front in the First World War. Malcolm McDowell plays the disillusioned squadron leader, Peter Firth an idealistic young flier, with strong Brit support from Christopher Plummer, Simon Ward, cameo by Ray Milland, John Gielgud, Trevor Howard. Made in 1976.

9.0 THE VAL DOONICAN MUSIC SHOW. With musical contributions from Roger Whittaker, Nana Mouskouri, Rolf Harris.

9.45 NEWS: sport; Weather News.

10.0 LIVE AID FOR AFRICA. BBC-1 takes over live coverage of the world's biggest-ever rock show (see also BBC-2, with Radio One providing simultaneous stereo transmission of the whole thing. All the performances now come from Philadelphia, with some of the pop names who've already done their stint at Wembley chatting to Mike Smith and Mark Ellen between US acts, from a West End night club. The line-up in order of appearance should be Tom Petty; The Cars; Kenny Loggins; Neil Young; Power Station; Eric Clapton; Phil Collins; Robert Plant; Jimmy Page; Paul McCartney; Duran Duran; Madonna; Pet Dill; Labelle; Hall and Oates; The Temptations; Mick Jagger; Tina Turner; Bob Dylan, and finale, 4.0 (approx.) Weather. Close.

BBC-2

6.25 Open University.

11.50 LIVE AID FOR AFRICA. Reminding us what the next 16 hours is all about, Michael Buerk reports from Ethiopia, on the world's response to the African famine.

1.0 LIVE AID FOR AFRICA. You don't need to know the first thing about pop music to appreciate the historic nature, and applaud the aims, of the live transatlantic "super-gig" introduced by its mastermind Bob Geldof, which lines up the pick of the world's rock and pop talent. By the time it finishes at dawn tomorrow, it will have reached an estimated global audience of one and a half billion, and raised, they hope, £10m for famine relief. The concert venues are Wembley Stadium and from 5.0 Philadelphia's JFK stadium; the running order should look approximately like this: 12.0 Opening Ceremony; 1.5 Status Quo; 12.25 Style Council; 12.47 Ultravox; 1.18 Boomtown Rats; and Adam Ant; 1.47 Spandau Ballet; 2.18 Elton John; 2.18 Nik Kershaw; 2.49 Sade; 3.18 Sting; Phil Collins and Julian Lennon; 3.53 Howard Jones; 4.7 Bryan Ferry; 4.38 Paul Young and Alison Moyet; 5.0 Bryan Adams; 5.20 U2; 5.41 The Beach Boys; 6.0 David Byrne; 6.21 Tears for Fears; 6.40 Queen; 7.1 Simple Minds; 7.20 David Bowie; 7.41 Pretenders; 8.0 The Who; 8.21 Santana and Pat Metheny; 8.40 Elton John and Wham; 9.0 The Thompson Twins and Nile Rodgers; 9.39 Wembley fiasco with Mercury and May, Paul McCartney, four ensemble. Continued on BBC-1.

10.0 SATURDAY REVIEW. The arts and media review reports on the Best Books for Babies marketing campaign, other countries' view of the news, an Oxford sculpture exhibition and chic living in Wapping.

11.0 CRICKET: THIRD TEST. Highlights.

11.30 THE STEPPED WIVES. Made in 1975, Bryan Forbes polished chiller casts Katharine Ross as the new-comer to a select Connecticut town 1.25 Close.

ITV London

6.15 am Good Morning Britain. 9.0 WAC trax. 9.25 LWT Information. 9.35 Matt and Jenny on the Wilderness Trail. 10.0 Max and Moritz. 11.0 Cartoon Time. 11.15 The Champions.

12.15 WORLD OF SPORT. Including: 12.20 wrestling; 12.45 news and Aussie pools check; 12.50 cycling - Tour de France; 1.10 artistic rollerskating (sic) from Bury St Edmunds; 1.25, 3.10, 4.0 International athletics - AAA's Championships from Crystal Palace with Overt, Cram, Coe; 1.35 racing from York and Ayr; 3.50 news round-up including Irish Oaks; 4.50 results.

5.0 NEWS: weather.

5.5 HAPPY DAYS: Welcome Home, Part 2.

5.30 CONNECTIONS.

6.0 CHIPS: Journey To a Spacecraft. Another mission for the mobile cops.

7.0 THE COMEDIANS.

7.30 BOTTLE BOYS: Things That Go Bump In The Night. Robb Askwith leads a second series of the vulgar sitcom which has already extracted the last drop of humour out of the milkman's lot. Oracle sub-titles.

8.0 ULTRA QUIZ '85. The ten survivors of the elimination quiz go to Stratford this week, for the next stage with a Shakespearean theme.

9.0 HUNTER: Dead Or Alive. Fred Dryer, Stephanie Kramer as the police partners, here competing with an unscrupulous bounty hunter in the search for a bank robber.

10.0 NEWS: sport; weather. London news headlines.

10.15 THE CHINA SYNDROME. James Bridges' tense and chilling anti-nuclear thriller, made in 1979, stars Jane Fonda and Michael Douglas as the TV journalists investigating an accident at a power plant. Oracle sub-titles.

12.30 LINDA RONSTADT IN CONCERT. 2.0 NIGHT THOUGHTS with Monsignor John Crowley. Closedown.

Channel 4

1.0 pm Nature in Focus. 1.30 The Listening Eye. 1.55 Film: Quiet Wedding (1941). With Margaret Lockwood, Derek F. 2.25 Film: The Ghosts of Berkeley Square. 1947 supernatural comedy with Robert Morley, Felix Aylmer. 5.5 Brookside. Omnibus edition with Oracle sub-titles. 6.30 Babbie.

7.0 7 DAYS. On the work of the chaplain at Durham gaol, and the new book by Audrey Peckham, A Woman In Custody, plus a discussion on present day morality.

7.30 UNION WORLD. As the UN Decade of Women is officially wound up, Anne Lester looks at what it has meant for British women.

8.0 TALES FROM A LONG ROOM. Another tall cricketer story.

8.15 SANNE. 6. Lotje Lohr leads the subtitled Dutch drama of today as the teenage peace campaigner.

8.45 THE OPTIMIST. 1. Sea Dreams. After the awful fog, a repeat showing of the silent comedy series which offered a much better role to Enn Reitel.

9.15 20/20 VISION: EUTHANASIA. Guardian columnist Hugo Young chairs the studio debate which concludes the murky-killing trilogy, with Professor Sir A. J. Ayer and psychiatrist Dr Colin Brewer explaining why they support euthanasia, Norman St John Stevas and Dr Tom West of St Christopher's Hospice opposing it.

10.0 HILL STREET BLUES. 2. Presidential Fever. Daniel J. Travanti leads another early episode of the cult police drama as boss cop Furillo.

10.55 "YOU KNOW HOW TO WHISTLE". Melvyn Bragg Talks to Lauren Bacall. And hears from the elegant and ageless actress about the pressures of her early screen stardom, the celebrated marriage to Humphrey Bogart which left her a widow at 32.

11.55 NAKED CITY. J. Don't Knock It Till You've Tried It. Walter Matthau stars in the latest old-b-and-w thriller as a kidnapped psychiatrist.

12.55 THE PAUL HOGAN SHOW. More repeated ribaldry with the Aussie comic. Closedown.

Radio 1

6.0 am Mark Page. 6.0 Peter Powell. 10.0 Dave Lee Travis. 12 noon-6.0 am Live Aid for Africa. See BBC-2 from 12.0 noon-10.0 pm; and BBC-1 10.4-6.0 am for details.

Radio 2

4.0 am Steve Trulove. 6.0 George Fergusson. 9.3 David Jacobs. 10.0 Sounds of the 60s. 11.0 Album Time. 12.30 pm Castle's Corner. 1.0 The Grumbleweeds. 1.30 Sport. 2.0 Folk. 3.0 Three in a Row. 7.30 Ron Goodwin. 9.30 Big Band Special. 10.5 Martin Kellner. 12.5 am Night Owl. 1.0 Steve Madden. 3.0-4.0 Wally Whytton.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather; News; Aubade. 9.0 News: Stereo Release. Mozart: Missa Brevis (soloists) / Dresden PO/Kegel; Bruckner: Symphony No.8 (Vienna PO/Gundlach). The Arts and Variations: Trevor Williams and Hubert Dawkes play music - for violin and piano by Mozart and David Bacio. 11.30 News. 12.30 German Dances; Beethoven: Piano Concerto No.2 (Mitsuko Uchida); (12.10 Interval); Schumann: Symphony No.2 (Mitsuko Uchida). Variations and Finale for clarinet, violin, cello and piano) and Ries (Grand Septet). 2.0 Afternoon Concertgebouw. Bartok Music for strings, percussion and celeste (cond Haitink); Beethoven: Symphony No.5 (cond Mengesberg); Rimsky-Korsakov: Scheherazade (cond Kondrashin); Ravel: La valse (cond Haitink). 4.0 Chopin and Brahms. Piano recital by Barry Douglas. 5.0 Jazz Record Requests. 5.45 Critics' Forum chaired by Walde-mar Januszczak. 6.25 News. Music for the Iron Voice. Organ works by George Bohm played by Graham Barber. 7.20 Oboe and Piano (George Caird / Clifford Benson). Britten: Temporal Variations; Praeludium; Rainier: Pastoral Tryptich; Paul Patterson: Duologue. 8.0 1986 Cheltenham Festival: opening concert. European Baroque Orch / Roger Norrington. Frances Kelly (flute), Wladyslaw Kizilewicz (harpsichord), Handel: Concerti Grossi Op.5 Nos.1 and 12; Harp Concerto in B flat. 8.50 The Oracle of Holland House, from Recollections of the Table Talk of Samuel Rogers. 9.10 Concerto part 2. Bach: Harpsichord Concerto No.4; Suite No.1. 10.0 Stravinsky (Serenade in A) and Prokofiev (Sonata No.7). Boris Berman (piano). 10.30 The Song of Roland. French epic in translation. Final part. 11.0 Mendelssohn: Piano Sonata Op.6 (Murray Perahia); String Quartet in A (Vermey Quartet). 11.57 News. Medium wave 10.55-6.35 Cricket: Third Test.

Radio 4

5.55 Shipping forecast. 6.0 News Briefing. 6.10 Prelude and Rondell Carrington. 6.30 News: Farming Today. 6.40 Prayer for the Day. 7.0 News: Today's Papers. 7.15 On Your Farm. 7.45 In Perspective. 7.50 Down to Earth.

World Service

6.0 News: Today's Papers. 6.15 Sport on 4. 6.45 Yesterday in Parliament. 7.0 News: After Henry. Comedy series. 7.35 Great Lines: End of an era. 7.50 News Stand. Weeklies review. 8.0 The Week in Westminster. 8.10 Pick of the Week. Chosen by Cyn Worsnip. 11.30 From our own Correspondents. 12.0 News: A Small Country. Living Magazine for the rural-minded. 12.10 Quotations. Unquote. Panel game. 1.0 News: Any Questions? David Steel, John Smith, Geraldine Malone, Peter Maxwell Davies. 2.0 News: Afternoon Play: Post Mortem by Noel Coward. 3.0 News: Radio Active. 3.30 Explorers Extraordinary. Isabelle Eberhardt in the Sahara and Hart. 4.15 Words by Hart. Songs by Rodgers and Hart. 4.45 Words and I Talk by Harry Sloan. 5.0 Wildlife. Nature queries. 5.25 Week Ending. Satirical review of the news. 6.0 News. 6.25 With Great Pleasure: P. D. James, crime novelist, chooses poetry and prose. 7.5 Stop the Bumper. Musical lullaby. 7.45 Baker's Dozen. Musical lullaby. 8.30 Saturday Night Theatre: Virginia Territory by Edwin Pearce. William Stead's first 100 years ago against child prostitution. 10.0 News: Evening Service. 10.30 Animal Language: How bats see with sound. 11.0 Science Now: Improving crops. 11.30 Cliffhanger. Comedy of the ocean. 12.0 News: Weather. Interval. 12.35 Shipping forecast.

VHF: 3.6-5.0 pm Options.

Wales (240m): 4.0 am As Radio 2. 6.30 am News. 7.0 am Today's Papers. 7.30 am News. 8.0 am News. 8.30 am News. 9.0 am News. 9.30 am News. 10.0 am News. 10.30 am News. 11.0 am News. 11.30 am News. 12.00 am News. 12.30 am News. 1.00 am News. 1.30 am News. 2.00 am News. 2.30 am News. 3.00 am News. 3.30 am News. 4.00 am News. 4.30 am News. 5.00 am News. 5.30 am News. 6.00 am News. 6.30 am News. 7.00 am News. 7.30 am News. 8.00 am News. 8.30 am News. 9.00 am News. 9.30 am News. 10.00 am News. 10.30 am News. 11.00 am News. 11.30 am News. 12.00 am News. 12.30 am News. 1.00 am News. 1.30 am News. 2.00 am News. 2.30 am News. 3.00 am News. 3.30 am News. 4.00 am News. 4.30 am News. 5.00 am News. 5.30 am News. 6.00 am News. 6.30 am News. 7.00 am News. 7.30 am News. 8.00 am News. 8.30 am News. 9.00 am News. 9.30 am News. 10.00 am News. 10.30 am News. 11.00 am News. 11.30 am News. 12.00 am News. 12.30 am News. 1.00 am News. 1.30 am News. 2.00 am News. 2.30 am News. 3.00 am News. 3.30 am News. 4.00 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BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

BLOOD - Thursday 18 today. **THE 17th** birthday of the late **John**...

MARRIAGES

THE WEDDING of **Mrs. David** and **Mrs. Mary**...

LECTURES & MEETINGS

THE NATIONAL DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY...

ACCOMMODATION

Edinburgh Festival...

SHARE A FLAT

ROOMS...

LONDON HOTELS

LONDON...

FAIRS & AUCTIONS

ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TREE IN YOUR NAME...

FOR SALE

KITES...

FASHION

Schmooks...

WEST COUNTRY

Country Hotel...

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

LAST MINUTE HOLIDAY AND ADVANCE HOLIDAY BOOKINGS...

FLIGHTS SALE

BERLITZ CASSETTEPAKS...

WORLDWIDE EXPLORATORY HOLIDAYS

IT'S HOT IN GREECE...

AFRICA SPECIALISTS

AFRICA SPECIALISTS...

AFRICA SPECIALISTS

AFRICA SPECIALISTS...

AFRICA SPECIALISTS

AFRICA SPECIALISTS...

AFRICA SPECIALISTS

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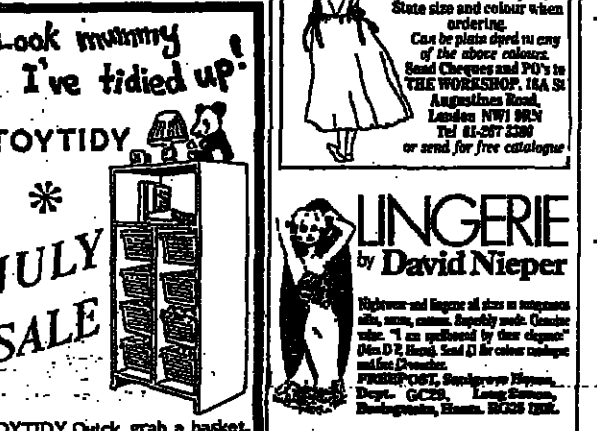
AFRICA SPECIALISTS...



Voluntary Service Overseas

Why not?

Form for Voluntary Service Overseas application.



Voluntary Service Overseas

Why not?

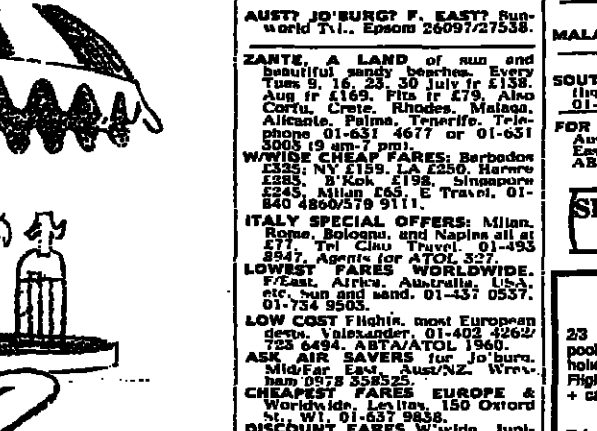
Form for Voluntary Service Overseas application.



Voluntary Service Overseas

Why not?

Form for Voluntary Service Overseas application.



Voluntary Service Overseas

Why not?

Form for Voluntary Service Overseas application.

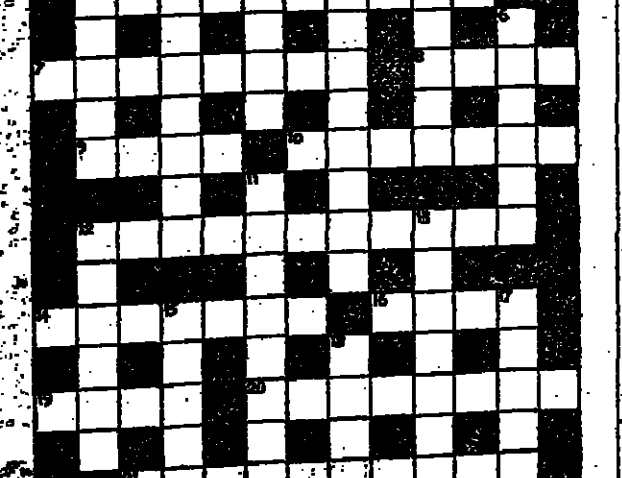


Voluntary Service Overseas

Why not?

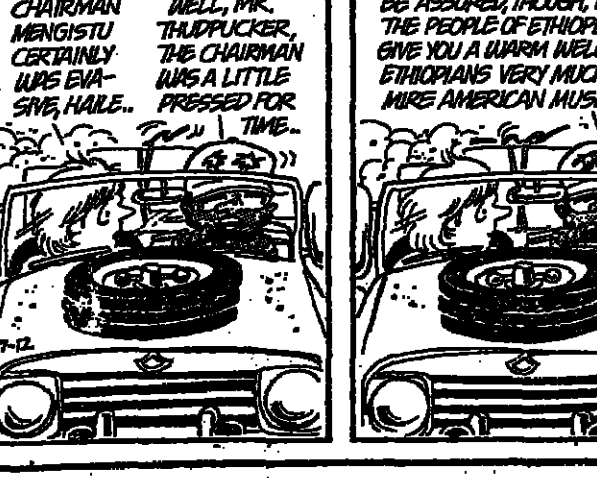
Form for Voluntary Service Overseas application.

QUICK CROSSWORD 4,761



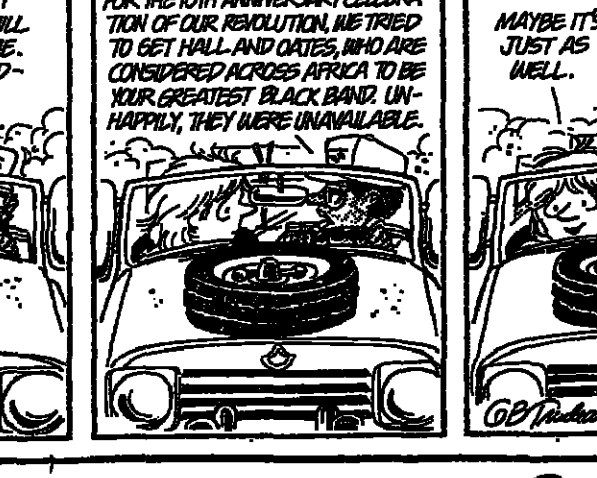
Across: 1 Medley (10), 2 Number of President Wilson's points (3), 3 Footwear - luggage carrier (4), 4 Part of egg (4), 5 Gainsborough picture (4), 6 Substitute for chamois (4), 7 Feeling (7), 8 Mass (for buying in) (4), 9 Footwear - block up (4), 10 Warn of trouble to come (3), 11 Accompaniment of bacon and eggs (5, 5).

Doonesbury



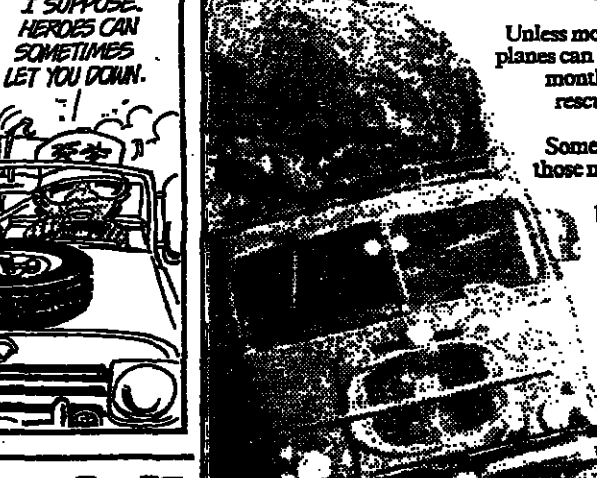
Chairman Mengistu certainly has a little sense, huh? Well, Mr. Thupucker, the chairman has a little sense, huh? BE ASSURED, THOUGH, THAT THE PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA WILL GIVE YOU A WARM WELCOME. ETHIOPIANS VERY MUCH ADMIRE AMERICAN MUSIC.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



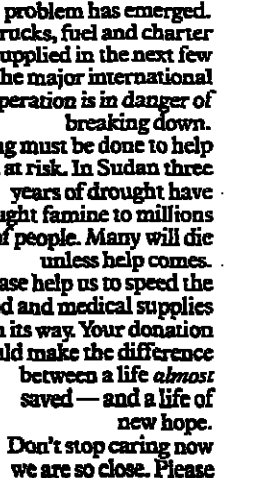
FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF OUR REVOLUTION, WE'RE GETTING HALL AND OATES, WHO ARE CONSIDERED ACROSS AFRICA TO BE YOUR GREATEST BLACK BAND. UNHAPPILY, THEY WERE UNAVAILABLE.

Steve Bell



OKAY - THERE IT IS - WHADDYA WANT ME TO DO NOW? YOU'RE GONNA DUMP A FIFTEEN HUNDRED POUND DOOPY ON THE MAGIC CASTLE!! BUT... BUT... THAT'S MY SPIRITUAL HOME! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LIVE DOWN THE SHAME OF IT!!

UNICEF



As emergency food to help save Africa's famine victims is literally pouring into ports and airfields from all around the world, a new and more desperate problem has emerged. Unless more trucks, fuel and charter planes can be supplied in the next few months, the major international rescue operation is in danger of breaking down.

